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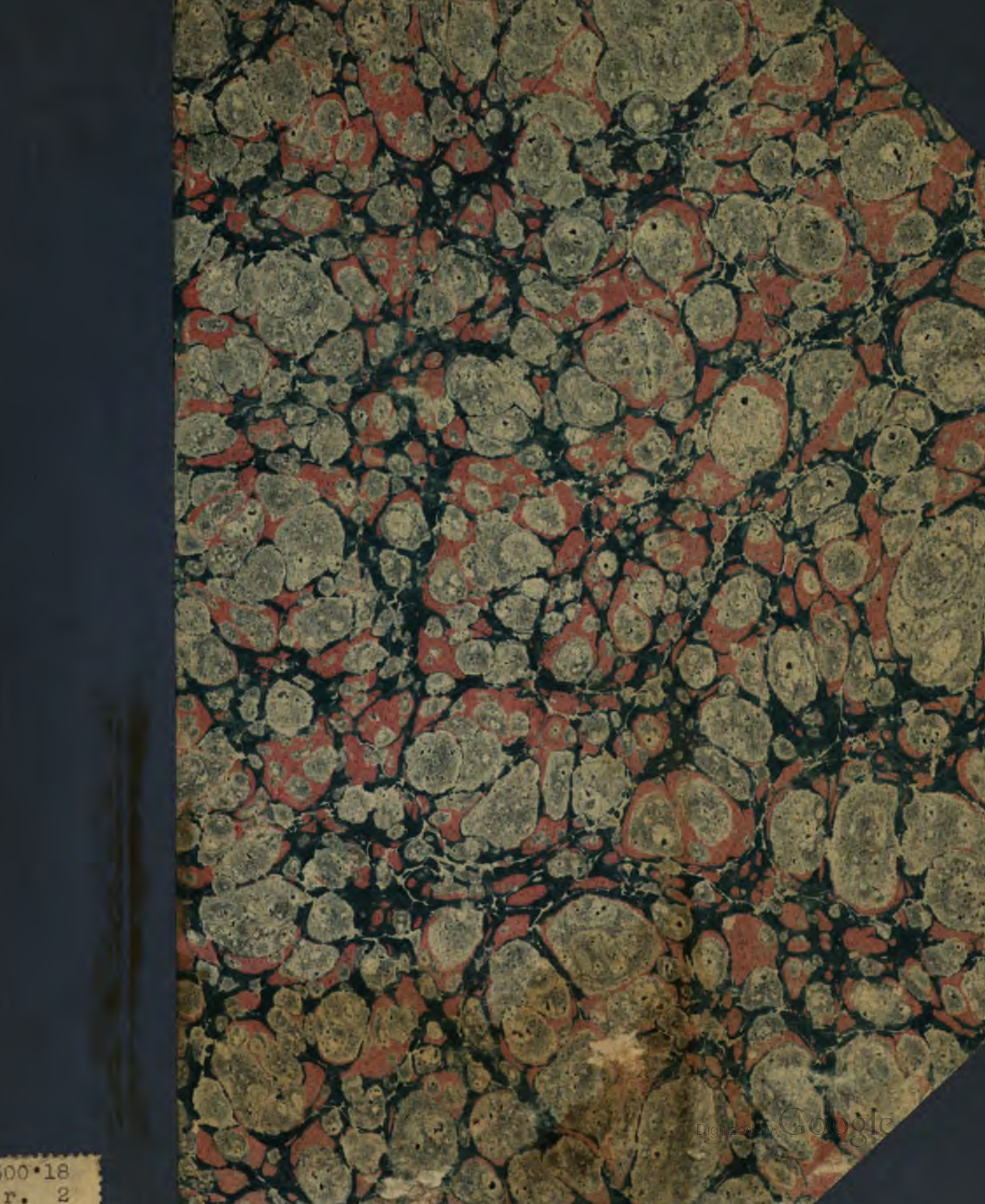
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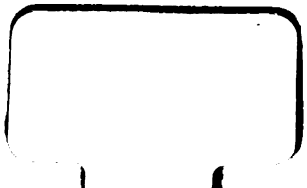

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THE

PRESENT STATE

OF THE

WEST-INDIES:

CONTAINING

An Accurate Deſcription

OF

WHAT PARTS ARE POSSESSED BY THE SEVERAL POWERS IN EUROPE;

TOGETHER WITH

An AUTHENTICK ACCOUNT of the firſt DISCOVERERS of thoſe Iſlands, and the Parts adjacent;

THEIR

SITUATION, EXTENT, BOUNDARIES, SOIL,	PRODUCT, TRADE, COMMERCE, INHABITANTS,	STRENGTH, GOVERNMENT, AND RELIGION.

ALSO

THEIR PRINCIPAL BAYS AND HARBOURS.

The Materials for which were collected on the Spot during the laſt War by ſome of the Officers of his MAJESTY'S FORCES, and diligently compared with all authentick Narrators.

ILLUSTRATED WITH

A COMPLETE MAP OF THE WEST-INDIES,

DONE FROM THE LATEST OBSERVATIONS.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR R. BALDWIN, No. 47, PATER-NOSTER-ROW.
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PREFACE.

THE Deſign of the following Work is to give a ſuccinct Deſcription of the different Countries known by the Name of the Weſt-Indies; their civil and natural Hiſtory, Situation, and Trade: The Importance of theſe Places, their different Poſſeſſors and Productions, render them ſo intereſting, both in the Syſtem of Commerce and of Politics, as to make a particular Account of them as uſeful as it is entertaining. The laſt Peace has made ſuch various Changes in the whole Face of Affairs in this Part of the World, that all former Accounts of it are almoſt become uſeleſs, and contradictory to the Preſent State, both with Regard to the Trade, Government, and Proprietors. A new Deſcription and Hiſtory of the Weſt-Indies, and adjacent Countries, was, therefore, highly neceſſary. There being no Work extant which gives an authentic Account of all theſe different Territories as they now exiſt, prompted us to attempt the preſent Performance, in compiling which, we have ſelected and examined all the authentic Teſtimonies, and Accounts of Authority, any Way relating to the Weſt-Indies, that were already publiſhed; beſides ſeveral original Charts from actual Surveys, Minutes, and other Memoirs, on which we could ſecurely depend, which, beſides affording us many excellent Helps in improving the preſent Work, have enabled us to correct the Geography of the Weſt-Indies, as may be ſeen in the following Sheets, and the annexed Plates, which are principally founded upon, and improved by, theſe valuable Evidences and Obſervations, many of which were taken from the Spaniards, &c. during the late War.

Notwithſtanding the Multiplicity and Length of the different Authorities we have conſulted and made uſe of, one of our principal Deſigns has been Brevity, as well as Method and Exactneſs; to reduce into as ſhort a Space as poſſible all that relates to the Hiſtory of the Diſcovery of each particular Country,

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Country, its ancient and preſent State, its Revolutions, and the memorable Events which any Way concern it, the Situation, Deſcription of the principal Rivers, Mountains, and Towns, the Harbours and their Conditions, the Nature of the Climate and Soil, its Manufactures, Productions, and Trade, and what Improvements might be made, or what new Branches of Commerce might be introduced with Succeſs; the Form of Government, the preſent State of the Population, and its Compariſon with what was the Caſe formerly: all theſe Articles, I ſay, have been minutely examined into, and reduced to a regular Form, with as much Conciſeneſs as the Matter would admit of, without omitting any Article of Conſequence which had any Connexion with this Subject. And as we have not been wanting in our Induſtry and Attention to render this the beſt as well as moſt exact and authentic Account of what the Weſt-Indies now are or have been, we flatter ourſelves that it will meet with the favourable Opinion and Approbation of the Public.

DESCRIPTION

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DESCRIPTION OF THE

WEST-INDIES.

PART I.

A General View of the Weſt-Indies.

THE Portugueſe, directing their courſe towards the Eaſt, had paſſed the Cape of Good-Hope, and diſcovered the Eaſt-Indies, when Chriſtopher Columbus, under the auſpices of the crown of Caſtille, made the firſt diſcovery of the New World. The rivalſhip of the nations of Portugal and Spain ſhewed itſelf, at firſt, only by the emulation, each of their navigators had, to make different voyages. Each of them quietly brought back to his country, accounts, together with the ſpoils, of regions before unknown, which he had the courage or good luck to find out. This peaceable ſtate could not laſt long. Two people, neighbours, and conſequently enemies, in Europe, ſailing in two oppoſite courſes on the globe, could not fail at laſt of meeting each other: and it was very natural, that thoſe who in our Continent were deſtroying each other in pitched battles, for the poſſeſſion of a ſmall territory, ſhould come to blows for the diviſion of a new world, when they were 3000 leagues diſtant from their own habitations. They, however, met, and did not attack each other. This, which ought to be conſidered as very amazing, was owing to Pope Alexander VI. one of the worſt of men who ever abuſed ſovereign power. Rome, which at that time governed the world with an empire more abſolute, perhaps, than that of the Cæſars, ſometimes inſtructed and enlightened nations, and ſometimes hindered their ſovereigns from deſtroying each other. Her prieſts, the only preſervers of literature, of principles and

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cuſtoms, did not always abuſe this truſt: we are in general ſo much prejudiced againſt them, as to heighten their abuſe of power, and to impute to them crimes which were more owing to the age they lived in, than to their profeſſion: there is unluckily ſo much to ſay againſt them, that it is thought wrong to ſay any thing in their behalf. The militia of Rome, who governed by the Goſpel, were the prieſts, who ſupplied the place of thoſe invincible legions, whoſe diſcipline and courage had conquered the world. The Pope, general of this innumerable army, ſervant of the ſervants, maſter and abſolute judge, in the name of God diſtributed crowns, and made new kings, as we have ſeen the Emperor of Germany make one in our days. He ordered nations to go to war, he commanded them to make peace; he put his ſeal to treaties, and gave a ſecurity to the poſſeſſion of new acquiſitions. His court of Chancery was for all Europe; and the general bigotry rendered his decrees more formidable, as they were more ſacred. When the Portugueſe had made their firſt diſcoveries, they took care to ſtrengthen themſelves with the ſanction of Rome, which impoſed on them no other obligation, than the converſion of the infidels. Ferdinand and Iſabella, joint ſovereigns of Caſtille and Arragon, at the time of Columbus's expedition, provided themſelves likewiſe with a bull of Pope Alexander VI. which ſecured to them all the new iſlands and countries which were or might be diſcovered by this navigator, under condition that the Goſpel ſhould be preached there by *good men*. What ſort of *good men* they were, who have preached the Goſpel there, may be judged from hence, that, of all the prieſts who have gone from Europe to theſe unhappy countries, Bartholomew de las Caſas is the only one of whom hiſtory has not tranſmitted the name and actions with execration. Beſides, this Apoſtle of the Americans, as he is commonly ſtiled, has he not been guilty of as much evil as his barbarous colleagues, in firſt recommending the trade and ſlavery of the Negroes, with a view to hinder the total extermination of the natives of America? However, the Pope, by an irrevocable decree, diſtributed the new-diſcovered countries: but, as they were continually increaſing, it was too troubleſome, as well as expenſive, to be always applying to Rome on the return of every ſhip. Beſides, avarice, excited by the commodities and precious metals which theſe new countries produced, was juſt going to make the Portugueſe diſcoverers take arms againſt the Spaniards. Theſe two nations agreed to divide the globe by an imaginary line, which, reaching from one Pole to the other, ſhould ſerve for a boundary as well to their poſſeſſions as to their enterprizes; and addreſſing themſelves to the Pope for his conſent to this curious diviſion of another's property, the Pope agreed to divide the world by this famous line of *Marcation*, placed in the Atlantic Ocean, at the diſtance of 100 leagues to the Weſt of the Azores. The line which is called that of *Demarcation*, and which runs 270 leagues beyond this, was adopted a little while after by an agreement made between the kings of Caſtille and Portugal. All the diſcoveries already made, or to be made, to the Eaſt of this political meridian, were to belong to the Portugueſe; whilſt all thoſe to the Weſt were the ſhare of the Caſtillians.

Each

Each nation was to preach the Goſpel as fervently as poſſible in that part which fell to its lot. It is eaſy to conceive the abſurdity of this line of marcation. The Pope, and his geographers, having not ſaid a word of an oppoſite marcation, as the Portugueſe have ſince pretended, which ought naturally to be 180 degrees diſtant from the former, it would follow, that either nation might comprehend the whole earth in its moiety, and that this curious ſpecies of property only depended on the courſe which each followed. From this conſideration it was, that Magalhaens, or Magellan, diſcontented with the Portugueſe his countrymen, formed the deſign of taking away the Eaſt-India iſlands from them, by going there on the Weſtern courſe; which he did in the name, and under the authority, of the Spaniſh flag, when he diſcovered the South-Seas. Notwithſtanding this abſurdity, notwithſtanding the inevitable meeting and avarice of theſe two nations, the Pope's line of diviſion hindered them from attacking each other, and that was ſufficient.

As nothing was then attended to but the Indies, newly diſcovered by the Portugueſe, all the new countries, in the new as well as in the old hemiſphere, received the name of *Indies*. From hence came the original diviſion and denomination of the Great Indies, Old Indies, or Eaſt Indies, for the true and ancient India; and of Little Indies, New Indies, or Weſt Indies, for America: this was relative to the line conſecrated by the Pope. The names of Eaſt and Weſt Indies are the only ones which are now preſerved: under the firſt is comprehended the greater part of Aſia, with all the iſlands: the ſecond, at preſent, only takes in the middle part of America.

Geographers commonly divide the Continent of America into two parts, North and South; the narrow Iſthmus of Panama joining the two immenſe portions. This diviſion, without doubt, is the moſt ſimple that can be conceived, and appears, the moment we look at the form and diſpoſition of America: it is likewiſe that which was made by the firſt Spaniards who went from the Iſthmus of Panama, to diſcover the South-Sea, ſo called in oppoſition to that from whence they came.

But this Bay, beſprinkled over with innumerable Iſlands, improperly called, from one of its parts, the *Gulf* of *Mexico*, when it ought to be called the *Weſt-Indian Sea*, which a ſimple neck of land ſeparates from the great ſea, to the Eaſt of it; this Gulf, whoſe depth diſtinguiſhes, in a very ſtriking manner, the two maſſes which ſeem to balance each other in the new Hemiſphere, ought not it likewiſe to enter into the phyſical diviſion of America? To this vaſt Gulf the Spaniards have retained the name of *Weſt-Indies*, leaving that of North and South America to the two oppoſite Continents. Under this name they comprehend all the coaſt of the main land, which lies adjacent to it, as well as all the iſlands, the chains of which ſeem to keep back the ſea, which beats with violence againſt this part of America. It is in one of theſe iſlands of the moſt Northern chain, the little Iſle of Guanahani, at preſent uninhabited, that the diſcovery was firſt made of the Weſt-Indies. This Gulf is the center of the moſt extenſive as well as moſt precious trade of America; and which ſurpaſſes, at leaſt in riches, that of the Eaſt-Indies. The appellation of

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Weſt-

Weſt-Indies, in its whole extent, has been adopted by the Engliſh, the Dutch, and all other navigators; and the merchants, in conforming to it, have obliged geographers to divide America into three parts, North America, the Weſt Indies, and South America.

§ 1.

IF you throw your eyes on a Map of the Weſt-Indies, you perceive a ſea comprized in three great Baſons, divided from each other by large projectings and ſinkings-in, and ſeparated from the Atlantic Ocean by a ſtring of iſlands, both ſmall and large. This diviſion is that of Nature, and what preſents itſelf at the firſt view. The ſea of the Weſt-Indies was moſt likely formed by an irruption of the ocean always driving towards the Weſt: all the ſhores that look towards the Eaſt, as well as the Iſlands, bear the marks of this continual action; the firſt are for the greater part overflowed, and the others are torn and broke throughout. The waters, puſhed forward and accumulated in the ſea of the Weſt-Indies, flow back to the ocean very rapidly through the Gulf of Florida, which, being the largeſt and principal outlet, keeps up their circulation.

The moſt Northerly Baſon is known by the name of the Gulf of Mexico; it is the largeſt of the three we have juſt taken notice of. To the Eaſt it has, for a boundary, the Peninſula of Florida, with the Iſland of Cuba; between which is the outlet which leads to the Gulf of Florida, alſo called the Canal of Bahama: on the ſide of the Continent it is bounded by the overflowed ſhores of Florida, Louiſiana, and of New Leon, with thoſe of a conſiderable part of Mexico, in which are contained the intire Weſt and North coaſts of the Peninſula of Yucatan. Theſe two coaſts are ſurrounded by a large chain of ſhoals, ſands, and rocks; the terrible remains of the lands, the ſea has ſwallowed up.

This Baſon, which I ſhall call the *Mexican*, terminates at Cape Catoche, about 72 leagues from Cape St. Antonio, the moſt Weſterly point of the Iſle of Cuba. Between this ſtrait, and a line drawn from Cape Gracias a Dios to Point Negril in Jamaica, Nature has formed the ſecond Baſon of the Weſt-Indian Sea; it is leſs than either of the others, to which it ſerves for a communication. This Baſon might be called the *Sea of Honduras*, after the Bay of that name, of which it makes the moſt remarkable part. Its boundaries on the ſide of the Continent, from Cape Catoche to Cape Gracias a Dios, are all the Eaſtern ſide of Yucatan, and all the North coaſt of the Province of Honduras, as the Spaniards call it. The waters running continually out of this Baſon into the Mexican Gulf through a very narrow ſtrait, ought to act with the greateſt violence in the Bay of Honduras; and, indeed, this Bay is full of overflowed iſlands and rocks, ſome under water, and ſome juſt level with it, ſand-banks, &c. and all the Eaſtern coaſt of Yucatan, which lies open to its action, is entirely torn and pierced with lagoons: throughout the whole may be ſeen the ravages of a ſlow but continual inundation.

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The

The third Baſon is bounded on the Weſt by the Mexican coaſt, on the South by that of Terra-Firma, to the Eaſt and Weſt by chains of iſlands: if we compare it with the two others, we ought to give it the name of the *Southern Baſon*. The Spaniards, who firſt diſcovered the ſea which is on the other ſide of the Iſthmus of Panama, gave it the name of the South-Sea, and called that of which we are ſpeaking the North-Sea. It has been ſometimes called the *Caribbean-Sea*, which name it would be better to adopt, than to leave this ſpace quite anonymous. It ſpreads from Eaſt to Weſt, and the ocean breaks in through a great number of inlets between the Caribbee Iſlands. Its waters, which may be ſaid only to ſlide along the coaſt of Terra-Firma, beat upon the Moſquito ſhore, and that of Coſta Rica, which are directly oppoſed to its action, with great violence: theſe coaſts, of conſequence, are overflowed, and cut into great lagoons and lakes. The ravages of the waters are equally ſenſible in the ſea, which is full of ſhoals and ſands. The opening of this Baſon, between Cape Gracias à Dios and Jamaica, is quite filled with ſand-banks, loaded with rocks and little iſlands. The environs of the Cape, eſpecially about 25 leagues off, ſhew nothing but overflown marks, the terrible number of which often deceive the efforts of the mariner who has got amongſt them.

This is pretty nearly the phyſical diviſion of the Weſt-Indian Sea. The diviſion of the iſlands which bound it on the ſide of the ocean appears more complicated; it is founded on their reſpective ſituations, or on the relations that the courſe of navigators has produced. We ſhall begin this diviſion from the South.

From the 11th degree to the 18th of North Latitude is a crooked chain, lying nearly N. and N. N. W. of ſmall iſlands, of which the largeſt is hardly 18 leagues long. Theſe the firſt diſcoverers called the *Antilas*, or Forward Iſlands, becauſe they really form a barrier advanced towards the ocean. The Spaniſh navigators, who traverſed through the little channels that ſeparate them, to paſs into the inner part of the Weſt-Indian Sea, diſtinguiſhed them by the general name of Windward Iſlands, and at the ſame time called thoſe the Leeward Iſlands, which lay from Eaſt to Weſt along the coaſt of Terra-Firma, from the moſt Southern paſſage to Cape Chichibacoa, or Coquibacoa, if we adopt the vicious appellation of ſailors. The winds, which almoſt always blow Eaſterly, ſhew naturally this diſtinction between the iſlands which lie more to the Eaſt, and thoſe which are more diſtant. The Antilles, or Windward Iſlands, are ſtill called Caribbee Iſles, from the name of the firſt inhabitants, exterminated a long time ſince by the Chriſtians of Europe; the unfortunate remains of whom, mixed with ſome Negroes, whoſe anceſtors were freed by them and ſaved from ſhipwreck, have lately fallen under the yoke in the Iſland of St. Vincent.

At the 18th degree, the curvature of the Caribbean chain ends. This rounding comprehends ſeveral ſmall iſlands, which the Engliſh call the Leeward Caribbees. At this ending the line bends all at once, and ſtretches out to the E. and N. W. This lengthening affords us ſeveral diviſions.

The iſlands on the Eaſt, which are the moſt conſiderable of this ſea, have been

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called, in their whole extent, the Leeward Iſlands, for the ſame reaſon as thoſe which we juſt mentioned on the coaſt of Terra-Firma, and by ſome the Greater Antilles, to diſtinguiſh them from the Antilles properly ſo called.

Before theſe great iſlands, there ſtretches out a ſecond chain of ſmall iſlands, long and narrow, placed in ſand banks, ſome of which are of a prodigious ſize. This is the extenſion of the line to the N. W. to which they have the general name of Bahama Iſlands, or Lucayos.

The ſubdiviſions of theſe different archipelagos ariſe from the particular groups of iſlands in this long ſeries; ſo the name of Virgin Iſles diſtinguiſhes that cluſter of iſlands and rocks which fill up that part of the ſea between the Leeward Caribbees and Porto Rico: and the names of iſlands of Eſpiritu Santo, of Cayques, of Turkiſh Iſles, &c. have been given to ſeveral parcels of rocks and ſands which divide the Lucayos. Herrera, who called by this laſt name all the iſlands to the North of the Greater Antilles, even thoſe of Florida, makes three grand ſubdiviſions of them, which we do not repeat here, becauſe nobody has followed him herein.

This general view of the Weſt-India Iſlands naturally leads us to ſome reflections on their formation.

§ 2.

ONE cannot help regarding them as lands which have eſcaped the irruption of water; and, which ever way we conſider them, we ſee nothing but the remains of an immenſe ſhipwreck. The Caribbees principally appear to be only the ſummits of mountains, the lower chain of which, at preſent under water, is diſtinguiſhable in the channels of different breadths which ſeparate theſe iſlands: ſome of them are ſix leagues broad, others 10 or 15; but in all of them we find a bottom at 100, 120, or 150 fathoms. There is between Grenada and St. Vincent a little archipelago of 16 leagues broad, known under the name of the Grenadilles, or Grenadines, where in ſome places there is only 10 fathom. To this we may add, that, in all the Antilles, the principal mountains, which lie in the ſame direction as the chain of iſlands, are all volcanos, either now burning or extinguiſhed; and we find throughout, the marks of a ſubterraneous fire, which muſt have joined its efforts to that of the ocean, in the general irruption.

Though philoſophers try in vain to find out what was the firſt cauſe of this irruption, or what was that of the particular inundations, which have drowned whole countries, and left others uncovered; or thoſe exceeding great accidents, which have overturned a part of the earth's ſurface, and totally changed its face; it is certain that theſe grand changes in nature are atteſted by the moſt authentic monuments. The knowledge and proofs of them are almoſt coeval with the greateſt antiquity, and tradition has preſerved them among the moſt uncivilized and moſt diſtant nations. The principle of theſe alterations is to be found in the waters which ſur-

round

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round the globe, and which act in all directions on its ſurface. Europe has not ſuffered leſs changes than that part of America we are now conſidering: and the ancients, who lived nearer to the times when theſe ſtrokes happened, were as well convinced of it as the naturaliſts of our own times. "It was not enough (ſays Pliny, B. 6. ch. 1.) for the ocean to ſurround the earth and continually wear away the ſhores, it was not ſufficient for it, by opening a paſſage between Calpe and Abyla, to have abſorbed a ſpace as great as it already took up; not contented with having ſwallowed up the lands which filled up the Propontis and Helleſpont, it has beſides deſtroyed a whole country beyond the Boſphorus, ſo that it has at laſt joined itſelf to the Paludes Meotides, which have only been formed at the expence of the regions they have overflown."

Theſe particular deluges, in conjunction with great earthquakes, and eruptions cauſed by the volcanos and ſulphureous earths, are ſufficient to account for all the revolutions, both ſudden and progreſſive, which change the ſurface of our globe. The continual agitation of one element againſt another, of the earth which ſwallows up a part of the ocean in its interior cavities, of the ſea which tears off and carries away great portions of the land in its abyſſes, is the great cauſe of theſe inevitable changes. To this we may add, the motion of the ſea from Eaſt to Weſt, a motion impreſſed on it by that which carries the whole globe from Weſt to Eaſt: this motion is much greater at the Equator, where the globe, being more raiſed, moves in a larger circle. Thus it is that the ſea ſeems to break all the dikes that the land oppoſes to it, and that it opens itſelf a number of paſſages, in places, where the tops of mountains which by their great height eſcape being overflowed, compoſe at preſent the Caribbee Iſlands. All the parts of theſe iſlands which are expoſed to the Eaſt, that is, to the ſhock of the waters, are cut and wore away in their whole extent: the ſea, which continually beats its waves againſt theſe ſhores, renders them almoſt inacceſſible: the harbours and places of ſhelter are on the oppoſite ſide, which is generally diſtinguiſhed by the name of *Baſſe-terre*, while the Eaſtern coaſt is called *Cabes-terre*.

In the ſame manner Nature has formed the North-Weſt iſlands, which we have comprized under the general name of Lucayos Iſles. Theſe, much more flat than the Caribbees, may be conſidered as the ſurfaces, not immerged, of ſeveral large ſand-banks. We may eaſily conceive, that, the lands of which they made a part being upon the whole more elevated than thoſe from which the Caribbees have been detached, the water ought not to have cut them in ſo preciſe a manner, and has overflown them with a leſs quantity.

We might confirm theſe remarks, and ſeveral others, as well by the phyſical appearances, the diſpoſition of the ſtreams of water, &c. as by the natural productions, which would all tend to prove that the iſlands of the Weſt-Indies have been torn from the Continent; but we think that theſe new proofs would be unneceſſary in ſo general an account as this: beſides, the bounds we ſet ourſelves will only ſuffer

ſuffer us to give a ſuccinct relation of each object. We ſhall now go on to conſider the climate, productions, and commerce; which offer us ſo large and fruitful a field, that we are leſs embarraſſed in the choice, than in the manner of compriſing, in a ſhort as well as intereſting manner, the objects which preſent themſelves on all ſides. After having finiſhed this part, we ſhall enter into the political diviſion of the Weſt-Indies, by treating ſeparately of the poſſeſſions of each nation. The Philoſophical and Political Hiſtory of the Indies, a work full of acuteneſs and genius, will be of great uſe to us in this part of our work; and we ſhall appropriate to ourſelves ſeveral pieces of it which we could not have treated on better than that author.

§ 3.

THERE are but two ſeaſons in the Weſt-India Iſlands; the dry, and the rainy. By their ſituation between the Equator and Tropic of Cancer, they are ſubject to ſome differences, which ariſe from the poſition and qualities of the ſoil. The heat is continual; it increaſes from ſun-riſe to an hour after noon, and decreaſes as the ſun deſcends. The thermometer riſes to 44 degrees, ſometimes even to 47½, above the freezing point. Nothing is more rare than temperate weather; ſometimes, indeed, the ſky is covered with clouds for an hour or two, but there are never four days in the year in which they do not ſee the ſun.

Wherever the wind does not blow, one is ſcorched; and yet all the winds are not cooling: it is only the Eaſterly winds which moderate the heat; thoſe from the South or Weſt afford little relief, but they are more rare, and leſs regular than the Eaſterly. This Eaſterly wind is not perceived in the iſlands before nine or ten in the morning; it freſhens as the ſun riſes above the horizon, and diminiſhes as the ſun deſcends, and falls calm about the evening; but it is only along the coaſts, and not in the open ſea, that this wind conſtantly moderates the exceſſive heat of the climate.

The rains likewiſe contribute to cool the air of the Weſt-Indies. In general, theſe rains are ſo common, and ſo plentiful, eſpecially during the winter, which laſts from the middle of July to the middle of October, that, according to the beſt obſervations, they yield as much water in one week, as falls in our climate in a year. Theſe rains, ſo ſalutary againſt the heat, are, at the ſame time, accompanied with all the diſagreeable and bad effects of an exceſſive dampneſs: the fruits rot, iron ruſts from morning to night, meat cannot be kept freſh longer than twenty-four hours, and it requires continual attention and precautions to preſerve ſeeds, until the ſeaſon comes to ſow them in the ground.

To theſe inconveniences of periodical rains ſucceed thoſe of hurricanes and earthquakes. A hurricane is a violent wind, moſt commonly accompanied with rain, lightning, thunder, and earthquakes, and always with the moſt terrible and deſtructive circumſtances that the winds can produce. It tears up the largeſt trees by the roots, throws down the moſt ſolid buildings, and deſtroys the plantations; you would

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would fancy it was the laſt convulſions of Nature, juſt ready to expire. As none of the hurricanes come from the Eaſt, that is, from the great ſea, to which the Caribbee iſlands are expoſed, one is tempted to think that they are all formed on the continent of America, by the impetuous concourſe of oppoſite winds. The earthquakes are not quite ſo frequent as the hurricanes, but are ſometimes more terrible and deſtructive.

The climate of the continent of the Weſt Indies, that is, of thoſe parts which lie near the ſea, and which are comprized between the ſhore and the chain of mountains nearly parallel to it, throughout the greater part of this country, nearly reſembles that of the iſlands; and, in general, there are only diſtinguiſhed two ſeaſons, the wet and dry. The rains cauſe periodical inundations, by the overflowing of the rivers; and the offenſiveneſs of the exceſſive moiſture produced by them, is yet more augmented by the deſtructive exhalations which they ſpread in the air, the corruption of vegetables, animals, and of dead fiſhes, which the floods bring with them, the ſtagnant water collected in the low grounds, and in certain plains of a prodigious extent, as in thoſe near the banks of the Orinoco, ſtill add to theſe inconveniences. The great rivers ſituated beyond the Tropic have alſo their regular inundations; but theſe ariſe from the melting of the ſnow in the diſtant mountains from whence they take their ſources.

The regular winds likewiſe cool the lands within the Tropics, as they do the iſlands. On the coaſt of the Caribbean ſea, the wind is generally between the North and Eaſt. The Weſterly wind, which upon the other coaſts is perceivable almoſt all the year, is predominant here only in the months of December and January. In general, the winds are more regular upon the coaſts which look to the South, than upon thoſe whoſe aſpect is different; and every where they are ſubject to particularities, which ariſe from the jettings out and in of the ſhore, more or leſs conſiderable, and which render them more or leſs regular, and more or leſs ſenſible.

The hurricanes are never felt in that part of the continent oppoſite to the ſea of the Weſt Indies, and earthquakes are very rare there; but they often ſuffer whirlwinds, called *tornados*; theſe are ſudden, dangerous, and impetuous ſqualls, which are commonly againſt the regular wind, and whoſe duration is very ſhort; they likewiſe have ſome periodical ſtorms, produced by the northerly winds, eſpecially in the months of December and January. All the ſides of the mountains oppoſed to this ſea do not afford one volcano; indeed, we ſee ſome peaks of hills, which look like decayed ones: it is towards the South Sea that all theſe burning mountains are collected together; and in this part it is, where earthquakes ſometimes happen, and overturn the whole ſurface of the country.

A perſon of a humane diſpoſition, who conſiders the climate in general of the Weſt-Indies, both on the continent, and in the iſlands, cannot help deploring the inſatiable deſire that carries ſuch crouds to theſe countries. This climate, at all times dangerous to a European, deadly during ſix months of the year, infectious to ſtrangers, accuſtomed to a temperate air, to a convenient way of living, and to a wholeſome

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nourishment, becomes soon their grave. The most moderate computations make the loss of the English, who go to the West Indies, amount to four tenths; that of the French to three tenths. It is very remarkable, that, on the continent, which is much more unwholesome than the islands, the Spaniards do not lose more than one tenth. This effect of their constitution, or temperance, gives them a manifest advantage over the two other nations; and it seems as if Nature had destined them to occupy the West-Indies, to enrich the industrious nations, who could not live there, with its productions.

It will be easily perceived that we shall not enter into a detail of these precious and plentiful productions; each of them, considered separately, furnishing sufficient matter for a particular treatise, to a philosophical, a commercial, or a political writer.

§ 4.

WE shall place, conformable to the general sense of mankind, gold and silver at the head of these productions. They do not, excepting the gold mines of St. Domingo, properly belong to the West Indies, not even those of Mexico. The silver mines of this country are indeed found near the shores of the West-Indian sea, as well as in the inland parts; but the first are much poorer, and, at present, they do not work any which are not at a great distance from the sea, for fear they might be exposed to the invasion of foreigners. The mines of Peru belong still less to the West Indies; but, as it is through their sea that a part of their product is brought to Europe, we may comprehend them in this account. The moneyers of Mexico make annually twelve or thirteen millions of piastres, the sixth part nearly of gold, the rest of silver; about half this comes over to Europe, a sixth to the East-Indies, a twelfth to the Spanish islands: the rest runs by an insensible transpiration into foreign colonies, or circulates in the empire. It is commonly supposed, that the mines of Mexico employ about 40,000 Indians, under the direction of 4000 Spaniards.

According to the most moderate computation, the Spanish mines have sent into the metropolis, from 1492 to 1740, that is, in the space of 248 years, more than nine millions of millions of piastres, the least part of which has remained with the original masters; the other has been scattered over Europe, or carried into Asia. From the first of January, 1745, to the last of December, 1764, we are not reduced to conjectures. During this period, Spain has received, in piastres, 27,027,896 of gold, and 126,798,258 piastres 8 reals of silver; these two united form a mass of 153,826,154 piastres and 8 reals. If we divide this sum in eleven parts, we shall find that the common annual returns have been 13,984,185$\frac{3}{4}$ piastres. We ought to add to these riches those which are not registered, in order to avoid paying the duty, and which may amount to about a fourth more, and we shall find, that Spain receives annually from its colonies about 17 millions of piastres. We may observe, that these mines might yield much more, and that they are inexhaustible, since there are new ones continually forming.

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After

After gold and silver, cochineal is the most precious article of this part of America, if it is not the most lucrative upon the whole. New Spain alone remains in possession of this rich production, without which we could not dye either purple or scarlet. Independently of what it furnishes Asia with, it sends every year to Europe about 2500 surrons, or bags, which are sold at Cadiz one with another for 800 piastres each. It is a very considerable produce, which costs no trouble to the Spaniards. They likewise have the best indigo, the culture of which having been tried successively in different places, seems fixed at Mexico, and St. Domingo, in the West Indies, as it is at Caraccas, upon the Continent, a little more advanced towards the North. In the Spanish possessions are likewise found the best woods for dying, as blood-wood, fustic, and what is called the wood of Campechy, or logwood. I shall not mention several other productions of an inferior kind, both by their nature and their quantity; they shall be specified when we run over the particular possessions of the Spaniards.

Cacao is another precious production, of which the Spaniards carry on a great trade. They reckon that the annual crop of this fruit is more than 100,000 fanegues, of 110 pounds each. These come mostly from the province of Caraccas: the fanegue, which there costs seldom more than 6 or 7 piastres in mercantile commodities, is sold to the public at the fixed price of 38. Europe receives from 50 to 60 thousand of these fanegues; the rest are distributed in Mexico, Popayan, and the Canaries.

Sugar is the article in the West-Indies, after gold and silver, which deserves the most attention: its produce, and that of its extracts, known by the name of rum and molosses, is more important than that of coffee, cotton, indigo, in a word, of all the others put together. It is almost peculiar to the Islands; with that they procure every thing needful or agreeable to the inhabitants. As these Islands will be more or less specified, we must reserve, for that part, the enumerations of the richness of this produce, and now go on to the manner of carrying on the trade in the Western Islands.

§ 5.

EUROPE is continually enriched by carrying constantly to America not only all the goods which it produces or manufactures, but likewise those that its ships fetch from Asia or Africa. The direct commerce of its own commodities, and many imported from the East-Indies, and whose value has doubled in Europe, is without doubt very great; and the only one which comes near it is that of the Negroes, which they purchase, together with other commodities, on the coast of Africa, to sell them again in the West-Indies. This trade, to the disgrace of the age, has so deeply taken root, it is become so necessary to the present state of affairs, and our wants have justified it in a manner so absolute, that it is now almost a ridiculous common-place to cry out against the barbarity and cruelty of it.

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it. We have ſeen that Las Caſas gave the firſt idea to replace the converted Americans, who were ſmothered by thouſands in the mines, with blacks who were infidels. This diabolical idea was but too much followed. The inhabitants of Africa ſold one another; all the Europeans bought them: but, as they had not all mines to work, thoſe who were obliged to make plantations began to employ negroe-ſlaves for that work; and ſoon all the iſlands were cultivated by Africans, badly fed, half naked, beat, and uſed more unmercifully than the moſt ſtubborn beaſts of our country. Every year about 52,000 ſlaves are carried from Africa to the Weſt-Indies. The Danes carry away about 3000, the Dutch 6000, the French 13000, the Engliſh have all the reſt, which they diſtribute in their colonies: they ſell about 3000 to the French, and near 4000 to the Spaniards, the only people having any poſſeſſions in the Weſt-Indies who do not go to the markets for ſlaves on the African coaſt.

This trade of Negroes is carried on freely by all the merchants of theſe different nations, as well as the commerce of Africa, or the mother-country, with the reſpective colonies: but, at the ſame time, the intereſt of each nation has made them exclude all others the entrance of their colonies; and it is only the moſt preſſing neceſſity which has engaged the Engliſh and the French to except ſome places and ſome certain goods. This excluſion might eaſily be kept up by thoſe nations which only have the poſſeſſion of iſlands; but Spain, which has an immenſe extent of country, of which it cannot ſupply all the inhabitants, is put to much more expence and caution: hence the number of guarda coſtas continually cruiſing on the American coaſts; and the contraband veſſels, ſtill more numerous, who, notwithſtanding their vigilance, continually furniſh the Spaniards with European commodities, which the deficient ſupply of their mother-country makes them ſtand in need of.

All the trade between Spain and the Weſt-Indies is carried on in the royal and privileged fleets. The ſhips known under the name of galleons were alone employed for a long ſeries of years in this traffic: but, at preſent, the privileged fleets ſet out from Cadiz every two, three, or four years, according to the demand or circumſtances. They are commonly compoſed of 15 or 20 merchant-ſhips, under convoy of two men of war, or more, if there is any apprehenſion of danger. Wines, brandy, and oil, form the moſt bulky part of the cargo; the richeſt is compoſed of gold and ſilver ſtuffs, galoons, cloth, linen, ſilks, lace, hats, jewels, diamonds, and ſpices.

The fleet ſets off from Europe in the month of July, or, at the lateſt, in the beginning of Auguſt, to avoid the dangers which the violent North winds in the open ſea might produce, eſpecially near the ports, if it ſhould ſet off in another ſeaſon. The fleet juſt ſtops at Porto-Rico to take in refreſhments, and gets to Vera-Cruz, from whence its cargo is carried to Xalappa, about a third of the diſtance between this port and the city of Mexico. The time of the fair which is held there, is limited by law to ſix months; it is, however, ſometimes prolonged, at the requeſt of the merchants

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merchants of the country, or of thoſe of Spain. The proportion of the metals and merchandize determines the gain or loſs in the exchanges; if one of theſe objects is more plentiful than the other, the ſellers or buyers are neceſſarily loſers. Formerly the royal treaſure was ſent from the capital to Vera-Cruz, to wait there for the fleet; but ſince this key of the New World was pillaged in 1683 by the Buccaniers, ſo famous in the hiſtory of the Weſt-Indies, it remains at Puebla de los Angeles, which is 43 leagues off, till the arrival of the ſhips.

When the buſineſs is finiſhed, they carry on board the gold, ſilver, cochineal, furs, vanilla, logwood, &c. The fleet then ſhapes its courſe towards the Havanna, where, after having been joined by ſome regiſter-ſhips (the name given to merchant-ſhips which, paying a certain ſum to the government, have the liberty of carrying goods to the Spaniſh ſettlements), fitted out for the Bay of Honduras and ſome other ports, it ſails to Cadiz, through the Gulf of Florida.

In the interval between one fleet and another, the court of Spain fits out two men of war, which they call *Azogues*, to carry to Vera-Cruz the quickſilver neceſſary for the working the mines of Mexico. The Azogues, to which there are ſometimes joined two or three merchant-ſhips, that are not allowed to carry any thing but Spaniſh fruits, in their return are loaded with the price of the merchandizes ſold ſince the departure of the fleet, or with the produce of thoſe which were left on credit. If there is any thing ſtill left behind, it is commonly brought back by the ſhips of war, built in the dock-yards at the Havanna, and which always go to Vera-Cruz before they ſail for Europe.

The commerce of the Southern coaſt is carried on by private perſons inveſted with a privilege for that purpoſe. This trade was a long time open to all the ſubjects of the Spaniſh monarchy, and is ſtill ſo to the Americans. Thoſe of Europe are much worſe treated. In 1728 there was formed a company at St. Sebaſtian, in Biſcay, called the Company of Caraccas, from the name of the American province where it has its port and warehouſes: it has obtained an excluſive right of carrying on a correſpondence with this part of the New World, and fits out every year four or five ſhips from the place of its origin, which return to Cadiz: their cargo principally conſiſts of cacao.

This ſhort ſketch may give us a ſufficient idea of the commerce of Spain in the New World. The Weſt-Indies are the center of it. It is kept under by abſurd regulations, hindered by all kinds of obſtacles, both natural and artificial, cramped by a thouſand chains, and yet this commerce is the richeſt in the univerſe. What then ought the countries to be which ſupport it without interruption?

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PART II.

Settlements of the Europeans.

HAVING conſidered the Weſt-Indies under the general views which the geography and nature of the country preſent us with, without entering upon the detail of obſervations which theſe objects would afford us, without number; we ſhall proceed to conſider theſe regions in a political light. This part ought not to be ſo conciſe as the firſt; but, as it is very dry in itſelf, it will be proper to render it intereſting by giving the particulars of what we have only mentioned in general. As the method we have preſcribed to ourſelves in this general expoſition impoſes on us the neceſſity of being as ſhort as poſſible, we find ourſelves in the midſt of an exceſſive abundance of matter, more perplexed to chuſe, than to deſcribe.

The Weſt-Indies, conſidered relatively to the Europeans their poſſeſſors, will be the object of three diviſions; the firſt will comprehend the Spaniſh territories, the ſecond the Engliſh, and the third the French. The Danes and Dutch have ſo few poſſeſſions in compariſon of the three others, that they do not deſerve a particular ſection.

Of the Spaniſh *Territories.*

§ 1. *Of the Continent.*

SPAIN, which firſt diſcovered and conquered the Weſt-Indies, ſtill poſſeſſes almoſt all of it, notwithſtanding the repeated attacks of the nations who have diſmembered it of ſo many countries in Europe. Beſide its two iſlands, and half of St. Domingo, which alone are much greater than all the iſlands in the remaining Archipelagos of the Weſt-Indies, it claims all the country compriſed between the river Miſſiſſipi and the mouths of Rio Orinoco; which compoſes an extent of ſhore more than 1600 leagues in length, reckoning only from Cape to Cape. On this immenſe coaſt the firſt country that offers itſelf to our conſideration, is LOUISIANA, beyond the Tropic. The low and maritime part of this great territory belongs naturally to the Weſt-Indies. The Miſſiſſipi, after a known courſe of more than 700 leagues, falls into the ſea in this country through ſeveral openings. This river, throughout its whole courſe, is the boundary fixed, by the laſt treaty of peace, between the Engliſh and Spaniſh empires in America, the navigation of it being left free to the ſubjects of both nations. It has formed a great part of Louiſiana by the prodigious collections of leaves, ruſhes, branches and trunks of trees, which it is always bringing down: this maſs, puſhed back by the ſea, ſoon acquires a ſolidity, which continually increaſes the length of this part of the Continent.

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The

The navigation of the Miſſiſſipi, both upwards and downwards, is always ſlow, and conſtantly attended with danger. At 24 leagues from the ſea, on the left ſide of the river, is New-Orleans, the capital of this country, built by the French. It is a handſome town, the ſtreets of which are quite ſtraight, and cut each other at right angles; they form 65 pieces of buildings, each 50 toiſes ſquare, divided into 12 allotments, to lodge ſo many inhabitants. The houſes are all ſurrounded with canals, communicating with each other, and which were thought abſolutely neceſſary for the times of the rivers overflowing. The greateſt ſhips may lie cloſe to the ſhore, along the quay, on the banks of the river. On both ſides of the river we find a ſeries of plantations, rarely interrupted; below New Orleans they do not reach above five leagues diſtance; going up the Miſſiſſipi they extend to 10 leagues; and all along this 15 leagues of cultivated land is a dike neceſſary to preſerve the lands from the floods, which come regularly every ſpring. Throughout this whole ſpace, the land, quite fenny, is very favourable to all productions which require a moiſt ſoil. If the earth is the leaſt ſtirred, it opens a fruitful bed for rice, maize, and all ſorts of pulſe and grains, except wheat, which exhauſts it in putting forth too much graſs. The climate of Lower Louiſiana is leſs healthy than thoſe more diſtant from the ſea: its heat is about that of the Southern provinces of France.

This colony, in its moſt flouriſhing ſtate, never conſiſted of more than 5000 whites, even reckoning among this number 1200 men which formed its military force; and this number is much diminiſhed, ſince the giving up Louiſiana to the Spaniards by France has induced many of the inhabitants to go to Weſt-Florida.

This ſingular ceſſion, as a judicious writer obſerves, has been equally hurtful to the two crowns, which are equally weakened by it; one in loſing what it has ceded, the other in accepting what it cannot keep; the extraordinary act of giving a people like a flock of ſheep is almoſt as much provoking as the cruelty which attends the taking poſſeſſion by new maſters. General Oreilly, the worthy ſucceſſor of the Pizarros and Almagros, and all the bloody invaders of America, joined villainy to barbarity, to deſtroy the unfortunate who could not reſolve to paſs under a new yoke without fighing. One might ſay, that the entrance of the Spaniards into an American territory is always to be marked with violence and ſlaughter: if you have the courage to follow them, their footſteps are continually drenched with tears and blood. O! ye Americans of the North, when will ye avenge the New World for theſe cruelties!

Louiſiana, in its preſent ſtate, is of no uſe to the Spaniards; it is a prey which the Engliſh coloniſts will not fail to enrich themſelves with, in the firſt war.

From the Rio Mexicano, which divides Louiſiana on the Weſt from New Mexico, to the mouth of the great river Del Norte, or Rio Bravo, at the 26th degree of latitude, is a great extent of country, watered by many rivers: its ſhores are low and overflown; the inland part is only inhabited by wild bulls. We meet there with ſome wandering nations, whoſe vagabond way of life has ſpared them from the yoke.

All

All this part is comprized by the Spaniards in their kingdom of NEW LEON; but it appears that this new kingdom ought to be incloſed between Rio del Norte and the Tropic; it will then take up a ſpace as deſolate, though leſs watered, than the preceding. The inland part is mountainous, and contains ſeveral mines.

Near the Tropic begins the part of New Spain which is inhabited, at leaſt that part which has any relation to our Map, and to its object.

Panuco is the principal place of the province of GUASTECA, which borders on New Leon. This town is ſituated on a very deep river, whoſe ſand-banks, at its mouth, hinder the entrance of any ſhips but thoſe of a middle ſize: it is the ſeat of a biſhop, and they reckon in it 500 families. In the inland part of this province of Guaſteca, where they gather the cochineal and ſeveral grains, are very rich ſilver mines; and beyond its confines are the Zacatecas, which are compoſed of about 15 different mines, all equally abundant. All its ſhores are low, overflowed, unhealthy, and full of ſalt-marſhes.

Leaving Guaſteca, the province of TLASCALA takes up the whole coaſt quite to Vera-Cruz. This province reaches from one ſea to the other: its climate, at leaſt in the inland parts, is healthy; its ſoil fertile and plentiful. It is more inhabited than the other provinces; and its inhabitants, who are the leaſt oppreſſed of any in New Spain, owe this favour to the alliance that their republican anceſtors made with the diſciplined robbers whom Cortez commanded, and who ſubdued the Mexican empire. They are the moſt intelligent of all the Americans ſubject to Spain. Their ancient capital, of which they have taken the name, and their new one called Puebla de los Angeles, have ſeveral manufactures: they make there cloth tolerably fine, ſtuffs of cotton which are much liked, ſome ſilks, good hats, galoons, embroidery, lace, glaſs, and a great deal of iron ware: to theſe advantages is joined that of the ſituation of the laſt city. All the inhabitants of Mexico, who muſt paſs through its territory when they go to buy the European merchandizes at Vera-Cruz, have found it convenient to provide themſelves on their journey with all thoſe things which the fleet does not furniſh them with, or which it ſells too dear. The clergy of Puebla are ſo exceſſive rich, that the biſhop has for his part a revenue of 240,000 piaſtres.

On the Weſt of the province of Tlaſcala is the province of MEXICO, with the city of the ſame name, the capital of the Weſt-Indies, and of all this part of the New World, ſituated in the center of the dominion. It is the ſeat of the government, the place where the money is coined, the abode of the greateſt planters and the richeſt merchants. It is built in the middle of a great lake, about 30 leagues in circumference, which is very irregular, and divided into two parts by a very narrow neck of land: the paſſage to it is over five cauſeways, raiſed in the lake; the form is ſquare; the ſtreets of Mexico are large, ſtraight, and well paved; the public buildings magnificent, the palaces grand, the ſmalleſt houſes convenient. Its circuit, which takes in ſome very ornamental walks and delightful gardens, is about two leagues round.

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Its inhabitants are not more than 60,000 ſouls. They are compoſed of Spaniards, Mongrels, Indians, Negroes, and Mulattoes; in ſhort, men of all the tints that the mixture of white, copper-colour, and black, can produce. Their enormous riches, and ſhocking luxury, can only be paralleled by the exceſs of their ſuperſtition, and the corruption of their morals.

The city of La Vera-Cruz, by which that of Mexico as well as a great part of the Spaniſh empire carries on its correſpondence with Europe, is ſituated at the Eaſtern extremity of the province of Tlaſcala, in the midſt of a ſandy plain. The rains make it very unhealthy from April to November: moſt of its houſes are built of wood, and the number of Spaniſh inhabitants is about three thouſand. Mulattoes or Mongrels, who call themſelves whites. The harbour, which will only contain 30 or 35 ſhips, and theſe ſometimes expoſed to terrible accidents from the fury of the North-Eaſt winds, is formed by the Iſland of St. Juan de Ulua, covered with a ſquare caſtle, furniſhed with a numerous artillery and a ſmall garriſon. The royal armada, deſtined to provide Mexico with the merchandizes of Europe, and to carry back the riches of the New World to the Europeans, arrives at this port, which is as bad as it is poorly defended, but is almoſt the only one to be found in the Mexican Baſon.

Leaving Vera-Cruz, we meet with the ſhore of the province of GUAXACA: like that of Tlaſcala, it is ſituated on both the ſeas, between which the communication is through ſome defiles in the Southern chain of mountains, and by the rivers Alvarado and Guazahualcos, which empty themſelves into the Gulf of Mexico, one on the Weſt, the other on the Eaſt. The mouth of the firſt, defended by a ſmall fort, affords a tolerable good road for ſhips. At 45 leagues from this mouth, towards the South-Weſt, is built the capital, in an agreeable and fertile valley, which Charles V. gave to Cortez, with the title of Marquis del Valle. This valley is ſix leagues long, and four broad: its ſugar and fruits are ſo good, that the ſweetmeats of Guaxaca are reckoned the beſt in America; its city has few inhabitants, many convents, and a very rich biſhop. The leaſt difficult paſſage from one ſea to the other is by the river Guazahualcos to the port de la Ventoſa in the Gulf of Teguantepec. The climate of this province is pretty good. It breeds horſes, large cattle, and many ſheep, whoſe wool is made uſe of in the manufactures of la Puebla. Mulberry-trees are here in ſuch numbers, that they could make more ſilk than any other province. The mountain of Cocola, which ſeparates it from Tlaſcala in 18 degrees latitude, has mines of gold and ſilver, cryſtal, vitriol, and different ſorts of precious ſtones. Theſe mines are but poorly worked; but the productions the moſt attended to, and which make Guaxaca moſt commended, becauſe they make a capital object in the trade of Mexico with other nations, are cochineal and vanilla.

Every body knows at preſent, that cochineal, which was ſuppoſed a long while to be a ſeed, is an inſect, of the ſize and ſhape of a bug. This inſect feeds upon

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a prickly ſhrub which they call Nopal, full of a red juice, to which the cochineal probably owes its colour. They have every year three gatherings, which are ſo many generations of this animal; and after the cochineal is dried, either in the ſun or by the fire, it will keep both its colour and its virtue for ages. They gather it in many parts of New Spain, eſpecially in Tlaſcala, Chiapa, &c. but no where in ſuch plenty as in Guaxaca, which produces likewiſe the beſt vanilla in the Weſt-Indies. This is a little pod, whoſe inner part is lined with an aromatic pulp, full of an oily and balſamic liquor, in which are a multitude of black, ſhining ſeeds, almoſt imperceptible: it is the fruit of a plant which attaches itſelf to trees like ivy, and delights moſtly on the ſteep mountains. The Indians, the only cultivators of vanilla, gather theſe pods from the end of September to the end of December, and dry them in the ſhade to preſerve them; the uſe of them has paſſed from the Mexicans to the Spaniards, and from the Spaniards to other nations. Vanilla is particularly uſed to perfume chocolate, and the nuns of the city of Guaxaca have the moſt dexterity and reputation in this branch of American induſtry. Vanilla is likewiſe uſed in tobacco, as the Eaſtern nations make uſe of the wood of aloes.

The province of Guaxaca, on the Eaſtern ſide, is ſeparated from the great Peninſula of Yucatan by the little Province of TABASCO, which lies on the Southern coaſt of the Bay of Campeche. It is neither healthy nor fruitful; it is ſuppoſed, on ſome foundation, that it has given its name to the acrid fœtid plant that has had ſuch good ſucceſs in our Continent. There is a large tree, peculiar to this diſtrict, whoſe leaves are like thoſe of the orange-tree; it produces round black fruits, of an agreeable ſmell, and of an acrid taſte; the Spaniards make uſe of them to ſeaſon their victuals, and call them Tabaſco pepper. The ſea-ſhore of Tabaſco, quite deſtitute of harbours, preſents the mouths of two large rivers, both riſing in the neighbourhood of the South-Sea; one is known by the name of Tabaſco, upon which ſtands Villa Hermoſa, the contemptible capital of the Province; and more to the Weſt, inclining to the South, CHIAPA de los Indios, which may be regarded as the metropolis of the original Mexicans. This laſt town is only inhabited by Indians, who are there to the number of 20,000. It gives name to an inland province which bounds Tabaſco on the South, and whoſe territory, well cultivated, is exceeding rich in all ſorts of productions: the European fruits, and eſpecially apples and pears, have there an exquiſite taſte; and it breeds a great many horſes, which are thought the beſt in the Weſt-Indies. The inhabitants, as induſtrious and intelligent, as thoſe of Tlaſcala, have, beſides, the advantage to be friendly, amiable, and to cultivate all the arts and agreeable exerciſes. They are the only Mexicans who have any taſte in their works: they are painters, muſicians, and poets; their language is as ſoft as their manners. They are particularly expert in making pictures and cloths of feathers, that have never been imitated elſewhere, and figured ſtuffs of different coloured wool, which the beſt artiſts in Europe might not be aſhamed to own. All theſe advantages the Indians of Chiapa owe to their inland ſituation, to the barren-

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neſs of their mines, but moſtly to the famous Las Caſas, their biſhop, who protected them againſt oppreſſion in the beginning, and obtained privileges for them which the conquerors have always reſpected. Their country, which belongs to the Audience of Guatimala, is bounded throughout its whole Eaſtern ſide by the great river Sumaſinta, which falls into the ſea on the coaſt of Tabaſco; its mouth is a large lake, not deep, where ſeveral other rivers empty themſelves, and whoſe low and marſhy banks are covered with thoſe trees ſo uſeful in dying, known by the name of Logwood. The buccaniers, in the laſt century, being obliged at the peace to give up their maritime expeditions, ſettled themſelves on the ſhores of this lagoon, and became logwood-cutters. The trees they cut down, and which afford the wood for dying, would be very like our hawthorn, if it was not ſo large: the trunk is ſometimes high and ſtraight, but more commonly ſhort and crooked; there are ſome which are five or ſix feet in circumference, and theſe they are obliged to blow up with gun-powder. The ſap is white, and the heart red; this heart part, cut away from the ſap, is what is carried into Europe, to die purple and black. The beſt logwood grows in the high and dry grounds about Campeche; and this town has given it its name, as it has to the Bay on which it is ſituated, and to the Weſtern coaſt of Yucatan.

YUCATAN lies between the Gulfs of Campeche and Honduras, both formed by its projection into the ſea. It is a very large peninſula croſſed diagonally, in its greateſt length from South-Weſt to North-Eaſt, by a chain of mountains, which decreaſes as they approach to Cape Catoche. All the part to the Weſt of this chain is dry, and deſtitute of rivers; but the water is every where ſo near the ſurface, and ſea-ſhells are in ſuch great numbers there, that it is viſible this immenſe country formerly made part of the ſea.

On this ſide, which we may call SPANISH YUCATAN, at fifteen leagues from the Northern ſhore, is built the city of Merida, defended by a citadel and ſome ſoldiers. The Governor and the Biſhop of the province reſide there. It is a handſome city of a ſquare form; with ſtraight and ſpacious ſtreets, cutting each other at right angles; the houſes are of ſtone, and their artificial whiteneſs is very hurtful to the eyes in this burning climate; there are about 30 churches. The greater part of the inhabitants paſs their life in idleneſs, ſupported by the continual labour of the Indians.

St. Franciſo de Campeche, upon the Weſtern coaſt, is the ſecond town in the province; it has a good citadel, a large harbour not deep, a dock-yard, and many merchants. This city was taken in 1685 by the Engliſh and French buccaniers, who plundered every place within 15 leagues round it for the ſpace of two months; they afterwards ſet fire to the fort, and to the town, which the Governor, who kept the field with 900 men, would not ranſom: and, to complete this pillage by a ſingular piece of folly, the French buccaniers celebrated the feaſt of their king, the day of St. Louis, by burning the value of 50,000l. ſterling of Campeche wood, which was a part of

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their ſhare of the booty. Several years before, this city of Campeche had been taken by Chriſtopher Mims, afterwards Sir Chriſtopher, a famous captain of the Engliſh buccaniers: as he marched in open day to the aſſault, drums beating and colours flying, the old privateers of Jamaica adviſed him not to venture ſo much, and to make uſe of a ſtratagem, the ſucceſs of which they repreſented to him as infallible; "I am come here," anſwered this magnanimous pirate, "to gain a victory, not to ſteal one."

The climate of Yucatan is very hot in the ſummer, which begins in April and ends in September; the winter is tolerably cool, except in the months of January and February, which are almoſt as hot as the middle of ſummer. In the ridge of mountains there is a much purer air, and the Indians there arrive to a very old age. Theſe Indians are very numerous; their lands being happily deſtitute of mines, their population has not been worn out as in the countries which abound more in metals: they are mild, friendly, laborious and temperate; they are of a ſhort ſtature, but of an agreeable look: thoſe of the North and Weſt, being obliged to labour in the ſalt-works, or to cut logwood, are more miſerable. The others keep flocks, cultivate the fields of maize, and gather the cotton which abounds in their foreſts; this article makes the principal revenue of Yucatan, as wax, ſkins, copal, ebony, Campeche wood, and ſalt, are the objects of its commerce.

It is well known, that cotton, the product of the two worlds, is nothing elſe but a very ſoft and white down, which ſurrounds the ſeeds of the plant and of the ſhrub which bears its name; they ſeparate the down from the ſeed by means of a very ſimple machine; it is diſtinguiſhed into two kinds, the cotton wool, and the cotton in thread; each of which is employed for innumerable uſes in manufactures.

We ought naturally to ſpeak of the Eaſtern ſide of Yucatan, after having deſcribed that which is beyond the mountains; but the diviſion we have fixed on, obliges us to defer this part to the article of the Engliſh territories.

We ſhall now transfer ourſelves to the little Province of VERA-PAZ, that borders on a part of Yucatan on the South. The Dominicans, who pretend to have made a conqueſt of it by ſpiritual arms, without the aſſiſtance of ſoldiers, have given it this name of "True-Peace;" yet, notwithſtanding their conqueſt, a great number of its inhabitants live free on the mountains, where they follow the religion and cuſtoms of their anceſtors. It produces abundance of cotton, gums, reſins, and medicinal drugs; its rivers afford the beſt fiſh in America; and in the plains near the Acaſabaſtlan, they cultivate muſk-melons, one of the moſt delicious productions of the Weſt-Indies.

The Province of Vera-Paz, the laſt of this ſide under the Government or Royal Audience of Mexico, lies at the bottom of the Bay of Honduras; this bottom, which is prodigiouſly full of fiſh, the Spaniards have called by the particular name of the Gulf of Amatique, upon which they have the harbour of St. Thomas of Caſtille.

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The Gulf is itſelf the diſcharge of another much ſmaller, called Golfo Dolce, which may be conſidered as the mouth of the River Acaſabaſtlan. The communication of one Gulf with the other is a ſtraight between two rocks, within gun-ſhot of each other. The merchandizes of GUATIMALA wait at the Port of St. Thomas, to be exchanged for thoſe ſent there from Europe, in three or four middle-ſized veſſels, which commonly arrive in the months of July and Auguſt. The way from Guatimala to St. Thomas, about ſixty-five leagues long, is next to that from Acapulco to Vera-Crux, through the Province of Mexico, the communication moſt followed between the Sea of the Weſt-Indies and the South Sea; it goes through plains which are inhabited and fruitful; for the laſt 15 leagues only it is over mountains where we find proper roads and baiting-places. The principal commodity of the Province of Guatimala is the product of its Indigo plants; a kind of ſhrub, about two feet high, from which, after having bruiſed and macerated them in water, is got a blue ſubſtance or fæcula, called Indigo; it ſerves for ſeveral uſes, the laundreſſes uſe it to give a blue colour to linen, the painters in their waſhes, and the dyers could not make a fine blue without it. Theſe plants, whoſe native countries are the Eaſt-Indies and Africa, have been tranſplanted into America in modern times. The culture of them requires as much care, as the different preparations, which follow the gathering them, to extract the coloured matter; they require a fat cloſe land, well-digged; they grow up to maturity in about two months, and laſt about two years; but as they do not exhale enough air and dew through their leaves to moiſten the ground, they ſoon exhauſt the ſoil which nouriſhes them.

The Port of St. Thomas, we have juſt mentioned, is in the large Province of Honduras, where begins a new Audience. Guatimala, which has been no more for theſe two years, ſince the earthquakes have ſwallowed it up, gave its name to the whole government, which reaches upon the two ſeas from Chiapa and Vera-Cruz to the Iſthmus of Panama. This city, the third of the Spaniſh Empire in America, had 40,000 inhabitants of all colours, Indians, Negroes, Mongrels, and Spaniards. For two centuries they heaped up riches, which are now returned for ever into the bowels of the earth, from whence they were taken. Thoſe who only conſider the great convulſions of the globe as objects of calculation, make the loſs, ſuffered by the deſtruction of Guatimala, amount to fifteen millions ſterling.

The Province of HONDURAS, the moſt Northern of its government, comprehends not only all the South ſide of the Bay, which has given it its name, but likewiſe a great part of the coaſt to the South of Cape Gracias a Dios: this, at leaſt, is the pretenſion of the Spaniards; but, as almoſt all this coaſt is entirely occupied by the Moſquitos, a free people, allies, and under the protection of the Engliſh who are ſettled among them, we are obliged to throw this part of the deſcription of the Continent into the ſection deſtined for England.

Upon the coaſt of Honduras, the Spaniards only poſſeſs two ſmall towns, that of Omoa, fortified for ſome years, whoſe harbour is excellent for the largeſt veſſels;

and that of Truxillo near Cape Honduras, which ſtill carries on ſome trade, eſpecially with the contraband ſhips. The capital, called by the Indians, Comayagua, and by the Spaniards, Valladolid, is thirty leagues from the ſea on a great river. The ſeat of the biſhopric has been transferred there from Truxillo; it is the reſidence of a particular Governor, and they work ſeveral ſilver mines in the neighbourhood; the labour of theſe mines, and of ſeveral others they have been forced to abandon, has depopulated a province, which enjoyed the united advantages of the fruitfulneſs of the ſoil, and the healthineſs of the air, at leaſt in the inland parts. They gather maize, cotton, wheat, honey and wax, in abundance; and its paſtures feed an incredible number of cattle. The objects of its exportation to Europe are reduced to ſkins, caſſia, ſarſaparilla, wool of the Guanaco, and ſilver; all theſe in but ſmall quantities. The Guanaco is a wild ſpecies of the Lama, commonly known by the name of the Peruvian ſheep; it is ſtronger, more active, and lighter than the domeſtic Lama, running as ſwift as the ſtag, climbing like the wild goat: it is covered with a ſhort reddiſh-coloured wool; although at liberty, the Guanacos like to join together in flocks, ſometimes to the number of two or three hundred; they chuſe the North, travelling among the ice, and keeping a little above the ſnow, for fear of the heat of the low grounds. When they are hunted for the ſake of their fleeces, if they gain the rocks, neither hunters nor dogs can ever reach them.

After Honduras we meet with NICARAGUA, which, in like manner, ſtretches from one ſea to the other. The Moſquitos, whoſe country it originally was, enjoy ſtill all the Eaſtern part, which we ſhall reſerve for their article. The Province of Nicaragua is inhabited by the Spaniards, only towards the South Sea; its climate is the moſt pure of any in New Spain. Here are all its fruits and grain, and the greater part of thoſe of Europe, a great quantity of ſugar-canes, and of cacao, which is as much eſteemed as that of Caracas. It furniſhes, beſides, timber, cordage, pitch and tar, wax, &c. The inhabitants, who are more impatient of the yoke than the other Mexicans, cultivate their lands with ſkill, and ſucceed very well in the making of cotton. Leon, their capital city, is ſituate at the head of the Lake Lindiri, which may be reckoned the beginning of that of Nicaragua: its port upon the South Sea is at Realejo, fourteen leagues to the Weſt. Grenada, the ſecond town of the province, is much larger, finer, and more populous than Leon, from which it is diſtant about 18 leagues to the Eaſt; its ſituation upon the lake brings the merchants there, and renders it one of the greateſt marts between the two ſeas. All theſe cities are famous in the hiſtory of the buccaniers, who have, more than once, plundered or ranſomed them.

The Lake of Nicaragua, properly ſo called, is of the ſhape of a parallelogram, rounded at the corners; it is forty nautical leagues long, and fifteen or ſixteen broad. One might think, that this immenſe reſervoir has been formed in one of thoſe ſhocks, whoſe marks are ſo evident in all the Weſt-Indies. Its Weſtern extremity.

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tremity is within three leagues of the South Sea, and, thereabouts, the great chain that runs through the Continent leaves a vacancy of twelve or fifteen leagues. The mountains, which ſurround the lake, have ſeveral volcanos near each other, and ſome of the iſlands in it are likewiſe burning mountains.

The great River St. Juan, more than thirty-ſix leagues long, ſerves for the diſcharge of its waters into the Weſt-Indian Sea, as well as for the tranſport of goods from one ſea to the other. Several rapid falls render its navigation difficult, and the Indians are the only ones who know how to get over theſe obſtacles. This river is defended by ſome forts; the principal of which, erected on the Southern bank at the entrance of the lake, is built on a rock, wherein they have cut a ditch ſix feet broad; it is mounted with twenty-five pieces of cannon, and has a garriſon of one hundred men, the greater part of whom are criminals condemned by the Spaniards to the military ſervice. The ſhores of the River St. Juan, near the ſea, are frequented by the Engliſh, French, and Dutch ſmugglers, who carry on a great trade there. The Lake of Nicaragua is well ſtocked with fiſh; it has a periodical motion of flux and reflux, but, the water not being deep, will only admit flat-bottom veſſels, the only ones which are uſed in the trade carried on by the city of Grenada with Carthagena, Porto-belo, &c. and, as the ſeamen of the lake are the moſt awkward of any in all the Spaniſh ſettlements, the navigation of this little ſea is of a tedioufneſs as tireſome to the paſſengers, as hurtful to the merchants.

At the beginning of the New Hiſtory of Jamaica, in three volumes, full of particular deſcriptions and very curious pieces, is placed a general chart under the name of "The Environs of Jamaica;" this chart, which ſeems to have no other relation to the work than by its very ſingular name, is ſervilely copied from the large Chart of the Weſt-Indies, mentioned in the Introduction. The engraver, who aſſumes the title of Hygrogapher to his Majeſty, has only added a ſtraight of about a league broad, through which the Lake of Nicaragua communicates with the South Sea. This perſon has not perceived, that, if ſuch a communication had exiſted, it would produce a new order of things in the government, trade, and navigation of the Weſt-Indies. It is thus, however, that blunders and falſities are multiplied in geography.

From the Lake Nicaragua to the Iſthmus of Panama, where New Spain ends, the Continent, more narrowly confined between the two ſeas, comprehends two ſmall provinces, that of COSTA-RICA, and that of VERAGUA, both traverſed by mountains covered with impenetrable foreſts. Their ſoil is dry, their climate unhealthy; but they have mines of gold and ſilver, and their rivers roll down grains of theſe metals; this is enough for the Spaniards, who, as may be eaſily judged, have depopulated them as much as poſſible.

Carthago is the capital of Coſta-Rica; it is ſituated at nearly an equal diſtance from the two ſeas, on a ſmall river which falls into the South Sea, about twenty leagues off, towards the South-Weſt: it is ſtill a mart between the two ſeas, and its

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merchants

merchants trade with Porto-belo, Carthagena, the Havanna, &c. The principal port on the Weſt-Indian Sea is at the mouth of the river, which the buccaniers have named Carpenter's River; it is one of the grand rendezvous of the European contraband traders. Between Veragua and Coſta-Rica, you meet with the Bay del Almirante, formerly called, by the ſame buccaniers, Boccatoro (inſtead of Bocca del Toro), from the name of one of its openings. This bay has ſome excellent anchoring-places; and, from the top of the mountains that ſurround it on the South, one may diſcover the two ſeas, when the weather is clear.

Almoſt all the provinces we have juſt run over, and which make up the greater part of New Spain, are ſituated in the Torrid Zone. The air is exceſſive hot, damp, and unhealthy, upon the coaſt of the Weſt-Indies. Theſe pernicious qualities are much leſs ſenſible near the South Sea, and hardly at all in the inland parts of the country, where runs a chain of mountains, that may be conſidered as a continuation of the Cordilleras.

The quality of the ſoil follows theſe variations; the part expoſed to the ſea of the Weſt-Indies, as we have already obſerved, is low, marſhy, overflowed in the rainy ſeaſon, covered with impenetrable foreſts, and quite uncultivated; it is a deſert and deadly frontier, which defends the moſt diſtant ſettlements of the Spaniards, better than forts and regular troops.

The population of New Spain is not leſs variable than the ſoil; thoſe who have written that there were ten millions of inhabitants before the Conqueſt, have manifeſtly exaggerated the number: ſome reduce it at preſent to 900,000 ſouls; others make it amount to three millions, and ſome others to five millions; we may perhaps, by a reaſonable computation, fix it at four millions. The moſt diſtinguiſhed inhabitants are the Spaniards ſent by the court to enjoy the places of government: for the Creoles, thoſe deſcendents of Cortez and his ſoldiers, who conquered this vaſt country, without the leaſt expence to Spain, are debarred from all employments, civil, military, or religious. It is ſaid, that they have naturally more life, courage, and activity, than the Spaniards who come every year from Europe, to take from them what they regard as their patrimony. It is certain, that they are commonly richer, and of a more diſtinguiſhed birth. The conſtant preference given by the miniſtry to the European Spaniards ſtifles the good qualities of the Creoles, and deſtroys all their greatneſs of ſoul: the habitual unjuſt contempt which they undergo, has, at laſt, rendered them really contemptible; to all the vices which can ariſe from an idle life, the heat of the climate, and a plenty of all things, they add the moſt vile and ſcandalous ſuperſtition.

The Mongrels, born of Spaniards and Indians, who form the third order of inhabitants, are ſtill more debaſed. The Creoles return to this mixed race as much humiliation as they receive from the Europeans.

The Blacks, who come after the Creoles, are not numerous; theſe are ſlaves that luxury alone has introduced, they have a right, like their maſters, to oppreſs the Indians,

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Indians, who owe them an implacable hatred. The laws have endeavoured to keep up this enmity between the two nations, by taking ſuch meaſures as will prevent any connection between them. The Negroes are prohibited to have any amour with the Indians, under the penalty for the men to be mutilated, and for the females to be very rigorouſly puniſhed.

The Mexicans, reduced at firſt by their conquerors to the ſtate of domeſtic animals, owe the eaſing of this ſlavery to the indefatigable endeavours of Las Caſas, who had the courage to repreſent at the court of Spain that they were human creatures. No one is ignorant, that, at this time, the ingenious batchelors of Salamanca had proved on their deſks, that theſe unhappy wretches were a middle ſort of beings between a man and a monkey. Condemned to work for their oppreſſors, who never have reſtored the lands they robbed them of, theſe are now obliged, at leaſt, to provide them well with food, to give twenty-four piaſtres a year to thoſe they employ, or a part of this ſum proportional to the time they have ſerved. They cannot go out of the territory wherein they are eſtabliſhed, and a very ſevere law prohibits them from carrying or making uſe of fire-arms.

The Indians are divided into diſtricts, the common extent of which is about eight or ten leagues, and the adminiſtration truſted to a Chief of their nation, who bears the name of Cacique; his dignity is hereditary: his office is to preſerve the police, to receive the tribute of the Indians who work on their own account (as the tribute of the others is kept by the maſters they ſerve), to prevent their flight by having them always under his eyes, and not ſuffering them to enter into any engagement without his conſent; and, laſtly, to make them march for the buſineſs of the government. As a reward for theſe ſervices, this kind of magiſtrates have obtained from the government a right of poſſeſſion; they are allowed to take from the common cheſt about three-pence every year, for each Indian ſubject to their juriſdiction; the Cacique is beſides authoriſed to have his fields cultivated by the young Indians, who are not yet liable to the capitation, and to employ the girls, till they are married, in works proper to their ſex, without any other ſalary beſides their maintenance.

Each diſtrict is adminiſtered under the Cacique by three other officers, who are choſen commonly from the moſt honeſt and experienced among the people. Theſe are the Teniente, the Alcalde, and the Fiſcal. They determine any differences in a particular place in each diſtrict, appropriated to the uſes of the government, under the name of "The King's Houſe;" they are diſtinguiſhed by outward ornaments. The Alcalde wears a ſquare piece of blue cloth, with the corners embroidered, on his left ſhoulder: the Teniente carries a ſtaff with a croſs at the top: the Fiſcal a key, and a whip with three laſhes, which are hung to his girdle, to ſhew that he is both the keeper of the priſon, and inflicter of correction. Beſides theſe three officers, there is a kind of Secretary, called Eſcrivano, belonging to each Houſe of the King; his office, in places on the great roads, is principally to regiſter the arrival and departure of the meſſengers ſent out by the government.

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Such is the order eſtabliſhed for the ſlavery of the Indians, loaded, beſides, with a multitude of particular vexatious burdens; the only recompence for all theſe evils, is, to have our grain, our fruits, our animals, ſome of our manufactures, and the whole of our ſuperſtitions. Theſe harraſſings have not, however, hindered them from regaining, at different times, ſeveral parcels of the immenſe territory of their anceſtors. They have purchaſed them of the government, or of the grand proprietors. If we except the very ſmall number of thoſe who gather vanilla, it is not their labour that has put them in a condition to make theſe acquiſitions: ſome of them owe it to their good fortune in having diſcovered mines, others to their digging up the treaſures which were hid at the time of the conqueſt; the greater number draw their means from the prieſts and monks, to whom they owe this light.

Theſe Indians have but few wants: their houſes are huts, generally in the form of a bee-hive, made of poles covered with the leaves of the palmetto, a kind of palm-tree, the ſtem of which is ſmooth and ſtraight, about 30 feet high, and whoſe leaves, nearly of the ſhape and ſize of a fan, are all placed at the top. They ſleep in ham-mocks, made of cotton, or of the plant called ſilk-graſs. Maize is their principal food; and the water in which it has been fermented, their drink; a few pieces of earthen-ware, all their houſhold-goods; ſhoes, drawers, a ſhirt, a great-coat of cotton, a ruff, and a hat, compoſe their whole dreſs; and the conſideration they have at laſt attached to theſe enjoyments renders them more frugal and induſtrious. They are not permitted to carry any other arms but the bow and arrow, with a kind of axe, which ſerves them both for hatchet and knife. However ſtupid they appear at preſent, they regret their ancient government; and tradition, carefully kept up, has tranſmitted to them an account of all the cruelties of the Spaniards, whom they curſe from time to time in ſongs, which the fathers teach their children. Their religion is a medley of the ſuperſtitions of the Roman church, which they have been made to adopt, in accommodating them to the feſtivals and ancient ſuperſtitions of their country.

All the male Indians, from the age of 18 to 50, pay a capitation of 18 reals, 16 of which go into the cheſts of the government, the reſt is put to other uſes. The Mongrels, who are reckoned Indians for the two firſt generations, and the free Mulattos, are ſubject to the ſame tax: they exempt from it the Negroe ſlaves, for whom 36 piaſtres have been paid to the king, at their landing into the colony.

The Spaniards, exempted alſo from this tax, are ſubject to all the others. The greateſt is that of 33 per cent. of the price of all the goods ſent there from Europe: the Old World retains 25 under different denominations, and 8 more are paid at their entrance into the New. This ruinous impoſt does not hinder their being afterwards ſubject to the Alcavala, a duty of two and a half per cent. on all wares which are ſold or exchanged, and as many times as they are ſold or exchanged. After this comes the Cruciada, a Bull, which gives great indulgences, and allows them the uſe of eggs, butter, and cheeſe, during Lent; it was fixed, in 1756, at three reals for

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for every rank. The government does not oblige any perſon to purchaſe it, but the prieſts and monks refuſe the comforts of religion to all thoſe who have not bought it; and there is not, perhaps, in all the Spaniſh colonies in America, a man who is ſenſible or bold enough to ſet himſelf above this tyranny.

Theſe prieſts and monks, whoſe riches, ignorance, and debauchery, ſurpaſs all belief, exhauſt, in their turn, the country which they debaſe; they rigorouſly gather the tithes of every thing that is produced; their offices are paid at an extravagant price; their eſtates are immenſe, and daily acquire more extent; it is ſuppoſed that they are in poſſeſſion of one fourth of the revenues of the empire, and that they compoſe about a fifth of the number of white inhabitants. Some of them are born in the colony, but the greater part are adventurers who come from Europe, to get themſelves away from the authority of their ſuperiors, or to make their fortune in a ſhort time. The Jeſuits are now no more to be reckoned among the number of monks; they were as rich as the others, but in the midſt of this ignorant, ſuperſtitious, and depraved crowd, they might have paſſed for learned men of decent manners: they became then as dangerous by their behaviour and knowledge as by the ſlow and continual ambition which formed the character of this extraordinary inſtitution. Their ſuppreſſion by the civil power alarmed principally the American ſuperſtition; hence the Bull that aboliſhes the whole Order, obtained, at laſt, from Spain, ſupported by France, and the reſt of the Houſe of Bourbon. This Bull will quiet the greater part of the Americans; but it is doubtful whether it will extinguiſh the party of the Jeſuits in the Spaniſh territories: the reſentment of this party, joined to all the old grievances of enormous taxes; loans not reimburſed by government; the averſion of the Creoles to the natural Spaniards, who poſſeſs all places, and devour every thing; the diſcontent produced by the duties of late laid upon ſalt, tobacco, and, eſpecially, upon ſtampt paper, taxes which are gathered in the moſt odious manner; all theſe things have raiſed a ferment in the minds of the people, that Spain will find difficult to allay, without making ſome ſacrifices, and without relaxing from its ſyſtem with regard to Mexico. This ferment, very apparent in the Deputies of the Empire, who came to Madrid to demand juſtice of the King of Spain, has given riſe to a project, ſo grand, that it appears inſane; and whoſe ſketch (preſented to the public in 1773) has more the air of an Eaſtern romance, than of a political ſcheme. The author is a French officer, who was forced, by ſome unjuſt treatment, to leave his native country and go to Spain: at firſt carreſſed, and afterwards deceived by the Court of Madrid, he became acquainted in this city with the Deputies of Mexico, who were tired of complaining to no purpoſe, and contrived with them the project and the treaty of an excluſive trade between their country and England. It does not appear, by his memoir, that he has much more reaſon to be pleaſed with the Court of London, than with thoſe of France and Spain; however that may be, the Mexican Creoles, of which he makes the number amount to three millions, and the Indians, their vaſſals, which he reckons

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reckons between four and five millions, uniting together againſt the Spaniards, their common enemies, were to form a republic, under the protection of England, by the name of the "Imperial Republic of Mexico." They were to begin by delivering to the King the Town of Vera-Cruz, with the Fort of St. Juan de Ulua, where they would admit only Engliſh ſhips. Immediately after the revolution, they were to lend, at three per cent. to their deliverers, 100 millions of piaſtres, taken from the plate in the churches, making twenty millions ſterling; and, if England ſhould be engaged in any war on their account, they obliged themſelves to produce a revolt in Peru and Chili. Not to alarm or diſguſt the ſuperſtition, the countries of Orizava, Xalapa, and Cordova, of about 2500 ſquare leagues, which contain all the paſſages between Vera-Cruz and Mexico, were to form a political and religious barrier between the Engliſh and Mexicans. Theſe countries, being erected into a ſovereign territory for the officer who negociated the treaty, he was to draw thither Europeans from all parts, and Orizava to become the general mart for the commerce between the two worlds.

This project has not been adopted; and, indeed, ought not, in the middle of peace. What we find the moſt remarkable in it, is, the author, treading in the ſteps of Cortez, enters into Mexico by the ſame port, follows the ſame rout, and employs only the Tlaſcallans, though probably ſupported by ſome Europeans, in the defence of the country become free, as the Spaniard did formerly make uſe of them for his conqueſt. I do not know the means, or the reſources, which he has laid open to the miniſters, who were nine months taken up with his propoſal; all that I know is, that, if Fernando Cortez had, before his departure, given in a project to the Court of Charles V. to conquer the Empire of Mexico, with 508 ſoldiers, 109 ſailors, and 15 horſes, he would have paſſed undoubtedly for the moſt diſtracted of men.

In the continued deſcription we have given of the Main Land, we have ſtopt at the Iſthmus of Panama, the boundary of New Spain, and ſeparation of the two maſſes which compoſe the Continent of America. What remains for us to deſcribe, in former times, bore the name of *Golden Caſtile*; at preſent, we may comprehend it under the general name of TERRA FIRMA. It reaches, under different governments, from the Iſthmus of Darien, or of Panama, to the mouths of the River Orinoco.

DARIEN, the firſt government that occurs, is that of the Iſthmus itſelf; cloſed up on the North by the ſea, and traverſed through its whole curvature by the high chain of mountains which unites the two Cordilleras. It is much more important for its ſituation, than for its ſoil or burning climate. All its mountains, covered with thick foreſts, are almoſt impaſſable: the rivers, which fall from them, overflow periodically, always bringing down muddy and unhealthy waters. The low coaſt exhales pernicious vapours, and we find only a few places cultivated, or proper for culture. However, the reaſon of abandoning its ancient capital, Nombre de Dios,

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(the

(the Name of God), has been leſs this deadly intemperature, than the weakneſs of the ſituation, and inconvenience of anchoring. The inhabitants of this town, having retired, in 1584, about ſix leagues to the Weſt, built there a new city, which Chriſtopher Columbus had laid the plan of, in 1502, round the ſuperb baſon, named by him Puerto-bello; we call it Porto-belo. The entrance is 1200 yards broad, but ſo ſtraightened by rocks, even with the water's edge, that it is reduced to a very narrow channel, beyond which the ſhips, once entered, enjoy a perfect ſecurity: it was defended by ſome caſtles, which did not hinder the city from being taken and ranſomed four times, by the Buccaniers, between 1595 and 1678; and, notwithſtanding their additional fortifications, Admiral Vernon, with only ſix ſhips, deſtroyed them in 1739. The city of Porto-belo ſtands upon an agreeable declivity, well watered; it is compoſed of two great ſtreets, whoſe principal buildings are two churches, a good houſe for the Governor, an exchange, a cuſtom-houſe, and ſeveral warehouſes. The intemperature of the climate of Porto-belo is ſo noted, that this city has been called the "Grave of the Spaniards." More than once they have abandoned the galleons, who had loſt there the greater part of their crew. The Engliſh, who blocked up this place in 1726, would have been too weak to have got back to Jamaica, if they had ſtaid a few days longer. The inhabitants themſelves do not live long, and have all a weakly conſtitution: it is reckoned mean to be one of them, and we find only ſome Negroes, ſome Mulattos, and a few Whites, who are fixed there by their employs under the government. The garriſon itſelf, though compoſed of only 150 men, never ſtays in the place more than three months together. Until the beginning of this century, not one woman dared to lye-in there; ſhe would have thought her child and herſelf devoted to certain death: it is aſſerted, that, the domeſtic animals of Europe, which are prodigiouſly increaſed in all the parts of the New World, loſe their fruitfulneſs when they arrive at Porto-belo; and, if we judge by their ſcarcity, notwithſtanding the abundance of paſtures, we ſhall be led to think that this opinion is not without foundation. Plants, tranſplanted into this fatal region, where heat, damps, and vapours, are exceſſive and continual, have never thrived. The environs produce a quantity of very large toads, nothing like which is known in any other part of the world. In ſhort, it would be too long to mention all the ills undergone in this place, as well as all the cauſes to which they are attributed. The ſea at the ebb, leaves on the ſtrand a prodigious quantity of black and infectious dirt, from which exhales a noxious vapour, that is ſuppoſed to be the moſt deſtructive poiſon of all thoſe which are collected together on this peſtilential coaſt.

Theſe inconveniences have not hindered Porto-belo from becoming the theatre of the richeſt trade that has ever exiſted. Whilſt the riches of the New World came there to be exchanged for the induſtry of the Old, the veſſels which ſet out from Spain, known under the name of galleons, arrived, laden with all the objects of neceſſity, convenience, and luxury, which could tempt the owners of mines. The bad qua-

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lity of the air had fixed the duration of this fair to forty days, and they did regard it as a ſmall inſtance of mortality when only 500 perſons died in this time. All the riches of Peru were depoſited, 18 leagues from Porto-belo, in the city of Panama, on the South Sea. This city is the capital of a particular Audience, whoſe diſtrict takes up the Southern coaſt of the Iſthmus; it is large, well-built, pretty full of people, and ſurrounded with a rampart defended by a great many cannons: there are 50 churches or chapels, and moſt of the houſes are built of Roſe-wood. The Bay of Panama is famous for the fiſhery of pearls.

The treaſure of Peru was tranſported from Panama to Porto-belo two ways. In ſummer, they made uſe of mules, who went acroſs the mountains through a path, often very ſteep and very dangerous, but always paſſable. In winter this communication becoming impracticable, the merchandizes were carried for three or four leagues to the River of Chagre, upon which they did deſcend to the town of this name, from whence they were carried to Porto-belo, to be put on board the galleons.

The proſperity of the fair of Porto-belo laſted, without interruption, till the taking of Panama, in 1673, by the Buccanier Morgan, afterwards Sir Harry Morgan: then the miſtruſt of the inhabitants of Peru occaſioned ſlowneſs and ſtops in the trade, which increaſed the practice of ſmuggling. This diffidence and the contraband trade were ſtill augmented by the attempts of the Scots at Darien, towards the end of the laſt century. The peace of Utrecht having taken away the treaty of the Aſſiento from the French, who could make no advantage of it, to give it to the Engliſh to whom it produced immenſe riches; the Engliſh company, who enjoyed the privilege of bringing Negroes into the Spaniſh colonies, obtained beſides, permiſſion to ſend every year a ſhip of 500 tons burden, laden with merchandizes, to the fair of Porto-belo. Then the ſmuggling was immenſe; the galleons, almoſt cruſhed by this concurrence, were ſtill more ſo by what the Engliſh poured into the ports where they carried Negroes. At laſt, it was impoſſible, after the expedition of 1737, to keep up any longer this trade, and we ſaw the end of theſe famous fairs, ſo envied by the Europeans, though one might conſider them as the common treaſure of all nations. After this epoch, Panama and Porto-belo have ſunk almoſt to nothing. Theſe two cities now only ſerve for a paſſage for the Negroes who are carried into the South Sea, and to ſome other leſs important branches of a languiſhing commerce; the more conſiderable buſineſs has taken another direction.

Darien is ſeparated from the Government of Cartagena by a deep Gulf, to which it gives its name. The Eaſtern coaſt of this Gulf receives the Atrato, a conſiderable river, by which the Spaniards bring to the ſmuggling veſſels which come thither, a part of the gold their Negroe ſlaves get from the mines of Choco. At about 25 leagues from this river, going towards the North-Weſt, we find a tolerable good port, that has preſerved the name of *Caledonia*, which the Scots gave it in 1698. They diſembarked there 1200 men; their deſign was to gain the confidence of the wild Indians whom the Spaniards could not conquer; to ſet them, with European arms

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arms in their hands, againſt a nation they deteſted; to form an eſtabliſhment upon their territory; to cut off the communication between Cartagena and Porto-belo; to intercept the galleons; and, joining their forces with thoſe of Jamaica, to eſtabliſh a deciſive ſuperiority in this part of the New World. This plan, which had nothing chimerical in it, was ruined by the diſeaſes that deſtroyed the infant colony, as well as by the policy of England, who feared leſt a ſucceſs of this nature ſhould retard, if not hinder, the union of the two kingdoms, which had been already planned, and was effected a few years afterwards.

On the Eaſtern ſide of the Gulf of Darien begins the Government of CARTAGENA, whoſe ſea coaſt extends from South-Weſt towards the North for about eighty leagues: it is bounded on the Eaſt, for near the ſame length, by the great River de la Madalena, which hardly leaves it more than 40 leagues for its greateſt breadth; theſe are reduced to 16 or 17 near its Northern extremity. On the Southern ſide it borders upon the new Kingdom of Grenada. We find there the Port of Samba to the North of the capital, and thoſe of Sinu and Tolu to the South; this laſt town gives its name to a reſinous liquor of a very agreeable ſmell, much eſteemed for its phyſical uſe; it runs from inciſions made, in warm weather, in the bark of a ſmall tree, which is called after it; it is a kind of pine, growing principally between Cartagena and Nombre de Dios.

The ſides of the great River de la Madalena are well inhabited; among other towns the moſt diſtinguiſhed is Monpox, a place of much trade. This great river, which has a courſe of above 200 leagues, and whoſe mouth is much frequented by ſmugglers, ſerves to bring to Cartagena the productions, the grain, and eſpecially the gold, of the new Kingdom of Grenada: after ſeveral days navigation, the boats enter into a narrow channel, which, having been enlarged about the middle of the laſt century, leads to the ſea at a very ſmall diſtance from Cartagena. In thoſe ſeaſons when it wants water, (and ſoon it will want it in all ſeaſons, through the negligence of the government,) the goods are diſembarked at three days journey from the capital. The gold and commodities of Choco and Popayan come down the River Cauca, whoſe ſource is in common with that of La Madalena, in the Lake Papas, near the eighth degree of South latitude, and which, about thirty leagues from Cartagena, falls into this laſt river, after a courſe of 160 leagues, nearly in the ſame direction.

Cartagena, founded in 1527, was pillaged, in 1544, by the French pirates; and burnt, in 1585, by Sir Francis Drake: the Buccanier Carliſle completed the pillage of its ruins, in 1586. It was hardly rebuilt when Pointis and the French Buccaniers took and ranſomed it, in 1697; their booty was above 2,500,000l. ſterling. After this epoch it has had ſufficient time to become impregnable, and was not attacked till, in 1741, by Admiral Vernon, who found himſelf obliged to raiſe the ſiege, though he had formed it with 25 ſhips of the line, ſix fire-ſhips, two bomb-ketches, and had landed troops enough to conquer all America.

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After

After all these revolutions, Cartagena continues in splendor, in a peninsula, joined to the Continent by two necks of land, the broadest of which is not above 70 yards. Its fortifications are regular, and after the modern manner. Nature has placed, at a little distance, a hill of a middling height that commands the whole, upon which the Citadel of St. Lazarus is built. In peace these works are guarded by ten companies of regular troops, of 77 men each. The city is one of the best built, best laid out, and best disposed in the New World; there are even few in the Old which surpass it. The streets are broad, straight, and well paved; the houses, mostly built of stone, are elegant, and only one story high. The cathedral, the palaces of the Governor and Bishop, the town-house, and the custom-house, are magnificent buildings. It is divided into the Higher and Lower Town; the Higher is upon the Isthmus itself; and the Lower, called also the Suburbs, is upon a neck of land, that becomes an island at high water, whose communication is over a wooden bridge. Both towns together may contain 25,000 inhabitants, of which the Spaniards make the 6th part; the Negroes, the Indians, the races formed of an infinite number of mixtures, compose the rest. Cartagena is the seat of a government, subordinate in the civil and military to the Viceroy of New Grenada; of a Tribunal of the finances, of a Bishop, and of an Inquisition, whose power and jurisdiction are very extensive.

The heats are excessive and continual at Cartagena; the torrents of water which fall without interruption from May to November, have this singularity, that they do not ever cool the air, which is sometimes moderated in the dry season by the North-Easterly winds; the night is no less suffocating than the day. The inhabitants pass a summer of six months as if they were in hot baths. A habitual transpiration gives them the pale and livid colour of sick people; notwithstanding which they often live to 80 years of age. Every thing among them shews an effeminacy, every thing leads them to inaction: indolence is carried so far that the rich men and women leave their hammocks as little as possible; their occupation is to be rocked in them to cool themselves; and the greatest misfortune, as well as the last ignominy, is for a White person to be reduced to labour. The slaves, black or half black, cultivate the rich and numerous productions of this province, and manufacture a small part of them. The sugar-canes grow there so fast that they cut them twice a year, and the cacao-trees, which are seen in abundance on the banks of the River de la Madalena, produce fruits preferred by many to those of Caracas.

If all the diseases of the hot and damp climate of Porto-belo are not felt at Cartagena, its inhabitants, in return, are attacked with a hideous leprosy, which spares neither country nor colour. All the lepers are shut up, without distinction of sex, rank, or age, in an hospital of an immense extent, which is built without the city. Every one there enjoys a little piece of ground, marked out for him at his entrance; where he builds a cottage proportional to his fortune; he brings his wife, or marries there, (for this disorder is such that one is obliged to allow marriage to these wretches,) and perpetuates his burning disorder with his pleasures and existence.

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Not-

Notwithſtanding this terrible malady, and other inconveniences as numerous as dangerous, Spain has always been extremely attached to Cartagena on account of its port, one of the beſt and moſt convenient that we know of; it is of two leagues extent, an excellent and deep bottom, except near the city, where the water is low, and ſo ſprinkled over with rocks, that it is impoſſible to approach it, at leaſt ſo as to make good a landing; there is leſs agitation than on the moſt ſtill river. The channel of Bocachica (Little Mouth), an opening of three furlongs, was formerly the only one that led to it. There could paſs but one ſhip at a time, under the croſs battering of ſome forts built on both banks. The Engliſh having deſtroyed, in 1741, the fortifications which defended Bocachica, it was ſhut up by the Spaniards; they opened again an ancient canal, ſo diſpoſed, that it would be very difficult for an enemy's ſquadron to force through it: all veſſels now enter into the port through this paſſage.

At the time that the trade of Peru was carried on by the way of the galleons, theſe ſhips came to Cartagena before they went to Porto-belo, and paſſed by it at their return. Since the ſuppreſſion of them, the trade of Cartagena, which is prodigiouſly diminiſhed, is reduced principally to the ſupplying with ſtores and proviſions its own government, Choco, and the Kingdom of New Grenada. The returns are never above a million of piaſtres in a year. The contraband trade, which is carried on in a hundred places on this coaſt, takes away from Spain almoſt all the riches and profit of this commerce.

Beyond the great River de la Madalena, you enter into the Government of SANTA MARTHA, which reaches quite to Cape de la Vela on the North ſide; a chain of mountains ſeparates it on the Eaſt from the Province of Venezuela. All the Northern part is full of other mountains of an exceſſive great height, known to all ſailors by the name of "the ſnowy mountains of Santa Martha." The air is colder, and much more pure in this province than in the countries we have juſt deſcribed. The vallies are very fertile; they produce a quantity of maize, with other grains and fruits; eſpecially oranges, lemons, pine-apples, and grapes: their inhabitants gather likewiſe a little indigo and cochineal, and cut ſome wood for dying. The mountains produce but little gold, but they find there, emeralds, ſapphires, chalcedonies, jaſper, and marbles moſt curiouſly veined. Upon the ſea-coaſts, where much ſmuggling is carried on, are ſome ſalt-works, and two very rich fiſheries for pearls, one at Santa Martha, the other at Rencheria. Pearls are found from the month of October to March. In the time this fiſhery was in its ſplendor, a ſmall fleet of 10 or 12 barks ſet out regularly from Cartagena, under the convoy of one or two men of war; all the oyſters were then depoſited on board the commanding bark, which was called the Capitana of the armadilla. They ſtill employ a great many ſlaves in this fiſhery, and ſome are ſuch good divers, that they will ſtay for a quarter of an hour under water, and riſe with a baſket full of oyſters. The pearl oyſter is three or four times larger than the other oyſters, and commonly contains 10 or 12 pearls of different ſizes: they bury the oyſters in the ſand, that the heat may make them rot, and open

of themſelves; after having cleaned and dryed the pearls, they paſs them through ſieves, whoſe different holes fix their reſpective ſize and price; all that are below a certain proportion are ſold in a lump for pearl-ſeed, and are of no uſe but in phyſic. As it happens ſometimes that the ſlaves employed in this work ſwallow the pearls in order to ſteal them, upon the leaſt ſuſpicion their maſters make them take a violent vomit.

The Province of Santa Martha has two principal maritime cities, Santa Martha, and Rio de la Hacha: the firſt is the reſidence of the Governor and Biſhop; its houſes, built of canes, are pretty; its harbour large, convenient, and ſafe; the environs agreeable and fertile. At preſent it contains but 3000 inhabitants, who carry on a very rich trade, and make a quantity of cotton, beſides the ſtuffs of this kind brought them by the neighbouring Indians, with their earthen ware, which is much eſteemed.

RIO DE LA HACHA, the capital of a little province incloſed within the Government of Santa Martha, takes its name from the river at whoſe mouth it is ſituated. This city is ſmall, and fortified; the Indians about it do not acknowledge the yoke of the Spaniards; they are all ſhepherds, and breed very large flocks in the fruitful paſtures which their plains and mountains afford them. As for the reſt, the inner part of the Government is very well peopled: it includes the towns of St. Sebaſtian and Los Reyes on the Ceſaré, that of Ocana, at its Southern extremity, on the little river Lebrija, which falls into the river de la Madalena; and the cities of Tamalemeque and Tenerife, on the Eaſtern bank of that river.

The Province of VENEZUELA joins that of Santa Martha, and ſpreads round the two ſides of the Gulf of the ſame name, that reaches near 30 leagues within land. The middle is taken up by a lake 20 leagues long and 30 broad, with a circumference of 80, and deep enough for veſſels of 30 tons; it communicates with the Gulf by a Strait, on which is built the city of Maracaybo, which gives its name to both Lake and Strait: as the Lake receives a conſiderable number of rivers, its water is drinkable, though the tides make it a little brackiſh. The entrance of this Strait, where there is a bar of a ſmall depth, is defended by ſeveral forts, which have not been attacked ſince the laſt century, when Sir Harry Morgan, having forced the paſſage, laid the whole coaſt under contribution, ranſomed the capital, and burned all the towns on the moſt Southern bank of the lake.

The length of the Province of Venezuela is about 100 leagues, with a breadth nearly equal. It is ſuppoſed the name of Venezuela, or "Little Venice," came from the reſemblance its ſmall lagoons, at the entrance of the lake, bear to thoſe of Venice. A little time after the diſcovery, Charles V. mortgaged all this province to the family of the Welſers of Augſburg, who had furniſhed him with conſiderable loans; theſe rich merchants ſent 480 Germans thither in 1528, whoſe avarice and fierceneſs ſurpaſſed all that had been ſeen before in the New World. Hiſtory accuſes them of having maſſacred, or cauſed to periſh, a million of Indians, and it

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does

does not appear that the accuſation is falſe. Their tyranny ended with a horrible cataſtrophe, and the ſovereign did not think of replacing them: in the exceſs of deſolation it was looked upon as a piece of good luck, that the country they had laid waſte came back under the Spaniſh adminiſtration.

Unluckily the ſcenes of horror which theſe Germans had ſhewn, were renewed by Carjaval, who was intruſted with the government of this unfortunate country; he finiſhed the depopulation, and it was ſo complete, in 1550, that they brought from Africa a great number of Black ſlaves, upon whom the greateſt hopes were founded. This is one of the principal epochs of the introduction of Negroes into the Weſt-Indies. The habitude of tyranny cauſed theſe wretches to be treated with ſo much cruelty, that they revolted; their rebellion was made a reaſon to maſſacre all the males, and the colony of Venezuela became again a deſert, mixed with the aſhes of Negroes, Spaniards, Indians, and Germans. Since this time it has been no more waſted by its governors; but it required no leſs than the extreme fruitfulneſs of its ſoil, and the healthineſs of its climate, to repair all its loſſes. The Indians, who are there to the number of more than 100,000, live tolerably happy. The Spaniards give themſelves to trade, to planting, and to the feeding of flocks; in the large and rich plains of Carora, between the Lake and the Province of Caracas, they bring up a prodigious quantity of European ſheep. In the neighbourhood of their capital they cultivate ſugar and tobacco, which are famous over all America. Maracaybo, the capital, has ſucceeded to the City of Coro, of which we now only ſee the ſite on the Northern coaſt; it is handſome and well-built; the houſes, almoſt all regular, are ornamented with balconies; there is a magnificent pariſh-church, a fine hoſpital, and four convents. The inhabitants, who are about 4 or 5,000, carry on a large trade, and build many ſhips, which makes their induſtry very diſtinguiſhed on this coaſt. The other towns of the province are St. Philip of Carora, Truxillo, and Merida, within land; Paraute, Gibraltar, and St. Pedro, on the Lake, &c. Maracaybo is the natural mart for their productions and trade, as well as for thoſe of the Northern parts of the Kingdom of New Grenada. We ſhall ſpeak in another place of the iſlands adjacent to the coaſt of Venezuela.

The Province of Venezuela is bounded on the Eaſt by that of CARACAS, which takes up about 45 leagues of the coaſt, with an indeterminate depth. This coaſt is bordered in its greateſt length by a chain of mountains, running from Eaſt to Weſt, and divided into a number of very fruitful vallies, well watered, whoſe direction and opening are towards the North. It has two maritime fortified towns, Puerto Cabelo and La Guayra: the firſt is about the Weſtern extremity, near to Golfo Triſte: the ſecond, 27 leagues to the Eaſt of this, between the Capes Blanco and Codera, though it has only an open road, is the chief place for the trade of the Caracas or Guipuſcoa Company, of which we have ſpoken at the beginning of this work; ſeated at the foot of a very high mountain, the narrow ſhore, along which it extends, is defended by an intrenchment well furniſhed with artillery, and commanded by two forts at

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at the bending of the mountain. In 1743, Admiral Knowles made an attack, without ſucceſs, on La Guayra and Puerto Cabelo, which are only peopled by ſailors and factors, the rich inhabitants reſiding at Leon, the capital of the Province of Caracas; this is ſituated ſix leagues more to the South, on the other ſide of the mountains. The valley in which it ſtands is a ſavanna or meadow, well watered and very healthy, about three leagues long, and near a league broad in the middle; and whoſe only entrance is through a crooked and ſteep road. This valley is bordered on the Eaſt by mountains of an immenſe height; thoſe on the Weſt and South are not ſo high. The city is near a mile long; the houſes handſome and well ornamented; the ſtreets regular, ſtraight, and broad, cutting each other at right angles, and terminating at a magnificent ſquare in the center. The number of inhabitants are about four or five thouſand, moſt of them owners of the plantations of cacao, which 12 or 13,000 Negroes cultivate in the rich vallies that divide the chain of the Caracas. One may eaſily conceive their luxury and indolence; their cacao is in general the beſt in America, it is almoſt the only thing they cauſe to be cultivated; at leaſt, it is the only object of their trade.

The cacao-tree is of a middling ſize; it comes from ſeeds, planted at a proper diſtance from each other. When it begins to puſh out, it divides into ſeveral trunks proportionable to the ſtrength of its root; as it grows, the branches, always diſtant from each other, bend towards the earth. Its leaves are long, ſmooth, of an agreeable ſmell, and terminated in a point; they would be very like the orange-tree if they were ſhining. From the ſtem, as well as from the branches, grows a flower of the colour of the jonquil, whoſe piſtil incloſes a huſk that contains the fruit; this huſk, which has the figure of a melon, pointed and divided by ribs well diſtinguiſhed, grows to the length of ſix or ſeven inches, and four or five broad, and contains 20 or 30 little kernels. While it grows, it is of a green colour; when it becomes yellow, it is a ſign the fruit begins to acquire a conſiſtence; as ſoon as it has a dark muſk colour, it muſt be gathered and dried without delay. Each grain of cacao is incloſed in the diviſions of the membranes of the huſk; the grains, ſo precious when they are pounded, ſerved in their natural ſtate for money to the ancient Mexicans, and are ſtill uſed for the ſame purpoſe among ſeveral Indian nations.

They get two crops of cacao in a year, both equal in quantity and quality. The cacao-tree, which begins to repay the labours of the planter at the end of two or three years, requires a moiſt land; if it wants water, it ceaſes to produce any fruit, withers and dies. It is not leſs neceſſary to have a ſhade to keep it continually from the heat of the ſun, and one ought to ſurround it with more robuſt trees, that it might thrive under their ſhelter; they call theſe the mothers of the cacao. The cares it requires beſides are neither troubleſome nor expenſive; it is only ſufficient to tear up the weeds, which deprive it of its nouriſhment. The plantations are called cacao-walks, and commonly contain from 500 to 2000 cacao-trees.

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Cacao

Cacao is eſteemed by the Spaniards as the moſt valuable preſent that Nature has given to America; it is the baſe of chocolate, a paſte with which the Mexicans made a drink, whoſe uſe, adopted and improved by the conquerors in all their territories, has been a long time introduced into all Europe.

In the Spaniſh Weſt-Indies, every body, without exception, take it continually; and its eminent qualities have become a proverb there. Chocolate is at once cooling, nouriſhing, and eaſy to digeſt; it renews the exhauſted ſpirits and vigour; in fine, it preſerves the health of the young, and prolongs the life of the old. The plenty and ſuperiority of the cacao of Caracas, make this province infinitely the more precious to Spain and to its Indies; we have already mentioned the extenſive trade of its Company in this branch, which is become of the firſt importance.

The two provinces remaining for us to deſcribe on the coaſt we are now conſidering, are thoſe of CUMANA and PARIA; both of them have but few inhabitants, and little trade; eſpecially the laſt, which, including all the mouths of the river Orinoco to the North of the great branch, is inhabited only by Indians hardly known to the Spaniards. The Province of Cumana has a little town of the ſame name, with a port on the Gulf of Carriaco, for its capital. At 20 leagues towards the Weſt, is the village of Cumanagote, where the low flat ſhore affords ſome pearls. There are ſeveral iſlands on the coaſts of theſe two provinces; the moſt Eaſterly, as well as largeſt, is that of TRINIDAD, which belongs to Paria, being ſeparated from it by a gulf where the Orinoco makes a rapid current; this current throws itſelf with violence into the ſea through dangerous openings, which Chriſtopher Columbus, in 1498, called Bocas del Drago, the Mouths of the Dragon. Trinidad is of a triangular form, the longeſt ſide about 36 leagues long, the two others 15 and 20. The Spaniards have here the Port of St. Joſeph on the Weſtern ſide, with a garriſon and governor; their habitations are but few, their plantations and trade very middling, but the iſland breeds a great number of wild cattle. On the North ſide are the iſlands of MARGARITA and Cubagua, both famous for the pearl fiſhery, from which the firſt takes its name; it is 16 or 17 leagues long, with few inhabitants, but plenty of hogs and cattle. The inhabitants of Trinidad and Margarita, a mixed race of Spaniards and Indians, are lazy, thieving, and ſuperſtitious; they have about thirty ſloops without decks, which ſerve them to exchange, by ſtealth, in the neighbouring iſlands, lean beaſts, and meat dried in long narrow ſlices, for camblets, black veils, linen, ſilk ſtockings, white hats, and iron ware. CUBAGUA, on the South of Margarita, is only two or three leagues long; its fiſhery produces the greateſt number of pearls, but they ſeldom exceed five carats: thoſe of Margarita, which are not ſo numerous, are the largeſt as well as the beſt ſhaped in the Weſt-Indies. The famous pearl of the King of Spain, called "La Peregrina," was fiſhed up in the bed of oyſters of the laſt-mentioned iſland; it weighs about 25 carats, and is valued at 25,000l. ſterling. Every body almoſt knows the anſwer of the traveller who preſented it to Philip II. This prince, aſtoniſhed at the price he had given for this pearl,

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ſo ſingular for its ſize and beauty, aſked him what he thought in making ſuch a purchaſe; "I thought," anſwered the Caſtilian, "that there was but one Philip II. in the world." The banks of pearl oyſters are, at preſent, nearly exhauſted, both on the iſlands and on the coaſt, and the fiſhery is almoſt nothing in compariſon of what it was formerly.

The part of the Continent which belongs to the Spaniſh Weſt-Indies, does not extend beyond the Province of Paria, with the adjacent iſlands. We now ought to finiſh the deſcription of theſe Indies by a ſucceinct detail of the Iſlands of Cuba, St. Domingo, and Porto Rico.

§ 2.

Of the Spaniſh *Iſlands.*

AT the extremity of this multitude of iſles, which ſeparate the inner ſea of the Weſt-Indies from the Atlantic Ocean, Nature has placed the Iſland of CUBA; which may be conſidered as the points of union where all the chains, both uncovered and overflown, meet at the end. This iſland extends, from Eaſt to Weſt, a length of more than 220 leagues, on a very unequal breadth, leaving between its ſhores and the Southern flats of Florida a channel of about 22 leagues, through which the waters run with rapidity into the ocean. Though it was diſcovered by Chriſtopher Columbus in 1492, it was not till 1511 that the Spaniards undertook to conquer it. Velaſquez, who was ſent there, did not loſe a ſingle man; the Indians, being mild and peaceable, ſubmitted themſelves with eagerneſs to the Spaniards, who ſoon, in return, exterminated them. Las Caſas, undoubtedly a great amplifier, makes the number amount to 500,000; it is certain that 60,000 died in ſix months time of the ſmall-pox, that the Spaniards had already exchanged in St. Domingo for that horrible poiſon, which deſtroys the ſources of love, from whence it takes its riſe, and ſeems to oppoſe the grand deſign of Nature.

Cuba, croſſed throughout its whole length by a range of high mountains continually decreaſing towards the Weſt, is watered by an immenſe number of rivers and ſtreams; theſe produce coolneſs, verdure, and fruitfulneſs, in the plains through which they paſs, and are moſt of them well ſtored with fiſh. The winding and indented ſhores afford a number of excellent harbours, but the whole iſland is little better than a foreſt, where we find plenty of the largeſt cedars in the Weſt-Indies. The breed of European cattle, introduced by the Spaniards, and become wild, has ſo multiplied in theſe immenſe woods, that it is now one of the principal riches of the iſland, and furniſhes every year, in its trade, 10 or 12,000 hides.

Cotton is the production which ought naturally to have been propagated with more ſucceſs in the Iſland of Cuba. At the time of the conqueſt this ſhrub was very common, and nothing was eaſier than to continue and encreaſe its culture; but at

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preſent it is ſo rare, that ſometimes there paſſes many years without the leaſt exportation of cotton to Europe.

One may ſay the ſame thing of ſugar; of this rich and moſt important production of America the iſland has but a few plantations, where the fineſt canes do not afford, with a great expence, but a ſmall quantity of ſugar of a middling quality.

The Spaniards have of late adopted the cultivation of coffee; but they hardly gather 35,000 pounds weight in a year, one-third of which is ſent to La Vera Cruz, and the reſt to the mother country.

Their principal article is that of tobacco; beſides providing Mexico and Peru, they ſend to Old Spain all that it conſumes, except a little quantity received there from Caracas and Buenos Ayres; the greateſt part is ſent in leaves, though that which is prepared in this country has had, and ſtill has the moſt reputation.

The remaining part of the trade of Cuba conſiſts in ſome exports of ginger, aloes, ſarſaparilla, and other drugs, and tortoiſe-ſhells. The mountains abound in mines of all kinds; however, they only work thoſe of copper, which are in the Eaſtern part; the produce of them ſerves for caſting all the cannon the Spaniards make uſe of in the Weſt-Indies, and a great part of thoſe they have in Europe. It would be an exaggeration to aſſert that the hundredth part of the Iſland of Cuba has been cleared, one does not ſee any traces of cultivation, except at St. Yago on the South coaſt, and at Matanza, a ſafe and ſpacious bay, which is at the going-out of the Old Channel of Bahama; the true plantations are all collected together in the beautiful plains of the Havanna, and theſe are not ſuch as they ought to be.

Theſe plantations, taken together, may employ about 25,000 ſlaves, of every age and of each ſex; the number of Whites, Mongrels, Mulattos, and of free Blacks, ſcattered over the iſland, may amount to 30,000, independent of thoſe in the capital, whoſe frequent intercourſe with Europeans has hindered them from depraving themſelves, and intermingling together to the ſame degree as in the other Spaniſh ſettlements.

The Havanna, their capital, ſituated on the North ſide, has had the uninterrupted advantage, ſince the diſcovery of America, to receive almoſt all the Spaniſh ſhips which navigate in the New World; and has been juſtly ſtiled, "the Key of the Weſt-Indies." The houſes are handſome, though low; the churches magnificent. It contains about 15,000 inhabitants, a part of whom are employed in the dock-yards, very anciently made here by the Government for building ſhips of war; they bring the maſts, iron, and cordage, from Europe. All the reſt is found in plenty in the iſland; but what it has the moſt precious is the wood, which will keep for ages with very trifling care, while the veſſels made in Europe dry and crack in the Torrid Zone: this wood begins to grow ſcarce in the neighbourhood of the Havanna, but it is common on all the ſhores, and the carriage neither dear nor difficult.

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The

The Port of the Havanna is one of the ſafeſt in the univerſe; the fleets of all the world might lye at anchor there altogether, the watering is very eaſy, and the water excellent: its entrance may be ſaid to be guarded by rocks, on which a ſhip runs the riſk of being loſt if ſhe gets out of the middle of the channel. It is become more difficult ſince the Spaniards have ſunk there, in 1762, three large men of war, to ſhut it up from the Engliſh, who had no deſire to force it. The port is defended by the Moro Caſtle, and by the Fort de la Punta, both ſo high above the level of the ſea, that it is impoſſible for the largeſt ſhips to batter them.

This Port, with the Spaniſh fleet of war, and 25 merchant-men, who had taken refuge there, the two forts, the city, its immenſe magazines, 3,000,000 of piaſtres, &c. were all taken, the 30th of July, 1762, by the Engliſh, after a ſiege of 29 days, having been attacked by 19 ſhips of the line and eight frigates, commanded by Admiral Pocock, with 10,000 men under the orders of the Earl of Albemarle.

The Spaniards, having recovered the Havanna at the peace concluded the year after the ſurrender, have built the Moro anew, and made its ramparts higher; they have fortified with a crown-work the high ground which commands the Moro. On the ſide of the city, after having totally rebuilt the Fort de la Punta, they have flanked the outworks with two new forts of four baſtions. Beſides theſe immenſe works, Spain has formed a particular army to keep the field in the country: this army, in time of peace, is compoſed of two ſquadrons of European dragoons, well mounted and well armed, and of 100 *Miquelets*, of a regiment of provincial cavalry of four ſquadrons, and of ſeven battalions of militia, who, ſince the peace, have been uſed to the manual exerciſe and evolutions in a ſurpriſing manner. The fortifications and the forming of the army have coſt incredible ſums; whatever may be their ſtrength, they will never defend the Havanna ſo powerfully as its pernicious climate.

The Iſland of Cuba is divided into three grand diſtricts, which have each a Commander, all under the Governor of the Havanna, the capital of the principal diſtrict as well as of the iſland. The chief place of the ſecond is Spiritu Santo, a little town in the inland part, whoſe port is another ſmall town, called La Trinidad, on the Southern ſide. The third is that of St. Yago, at the Eaſtern extremity; this city, the moſt ancient in the iſland, was formerly the capital of it; its Biſhop and Governor reſiding at preſent at the Havanna, it is only inhabited by ſome of the old proprietors; it has, nevertheleſs, a good port, which is frequented by ſome veſſels from the Canary Iſlands.

At thirteen leagues from Cuba, ſtill in a direction from Weſt to Eaſt, lies the Iſland of ST. DOMINGO, called by the ancient inhabitants *Aitii*. The ſtrait between the two iſlands is known to mariners by the name of the *Windward Paſſage*. The length of St. Domingo is about 110 leagues, and at the middle 40 broad; the coaſt is near 500 leagues, taking in the circumference of all the bays and creeks. In general the air is leſs healthy, and the ſoil worſe, than thoſe of Cuba. This iſland

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being poſſeſſed in common by the French and Spaniards, it is only the Eaſtern half we ſhall deſcribe here, ſince it belongs to the latter, who formerly occupied the whole. The great Columbus diſcovered it in 1492, and called it the "Spaniſh Iſland;" a denomination it has preſerved under the name of *Hiſpaniola*, along with that of St. Domingo. They found there ſome gold mines exceedingly rich, which brought all the robbers of Spain in crowds. The greater part of the male Indians periſhed in theſe mines; and almoſt all the females by the exceſſive labour of cultivating the fields of maize for the uſe of the conquerors; the others were maſſacred either in cool blood or in ranged battles; for ſo they called thoſe kinds of chaces which the Spaniards, covered with iron and followed by bull-dogs, made to a multitude of theſe unhappy wretches quite naked, and flying with all their might. The quick extermination of the natives, and conſequently the difficulty of working the mines; the bloody quarrels of the conquerors among one another; the diſcovery of Mexico, ſoon after that of St. Domingo, drawing thither all the invaders; laſtly, the pillaging of the capital by Drake, in 1586; all theſe things made the new colony fall to decay a few years after its eſtabliſhment. The Spaniards, ſcattered about this large iſland, having become unable to hinder the Buccaniers from ſeizing the Weſtern parts and ſettling themſelves there, retired on the Eaſtern ſide, which they have occupied ſince that time. Their part, both for culture as well as commerce, is much the beſt; it has large fruitful plains, and the ſituation of its coaſt is infinitely more favourable to navigation than that of the French part.

The Spaniards, ſtill more lazy here than at Cuba, plant very little; their principal employment is to breed cattle, or to hunt thoſe which have multiplied in the woods. They get, from their neighbours, ſtockings, hats, linen, guns, iron-ware, ſome cloaths; and give them back in payment horſes, horned cattle, both for work and for meat, ſmoaked beef, hogs, and hides, beſides 300,000 piaſtres that the Court of Madrid ſends every year for the expences of adminiſtration, the clergy, and of the troops which are maintained in this colony.

There were, in 1717, 18,410 Spaniſh, Mongrel, Negroe, and Mulatto inhabitants, who have not encreaſed in number ſince that time. The Government ſent, ſome years ago, a colony of Canarians to Samana on the North-Eaſt, whom the climate, the breaking up the ground, and the military vexations, have deſtroyed: and in 1757, there was formed a company at Barcelona for the trade of St. Domingo; they fit out every year only two ſmall ſhips, whoſe returns in Europe conſiſt of 5 or 6000 hides, and ſome other commodities of little value.

The capital bears the name of St. Domingo: it is ſituated on the South ſide in a large and fruitful plain covered with thorns, at the mouth of the river Ozama, which there forms a good harbour; its buildings, its churches, its numerous convents ſhew ſome magnificent ruins. It is the reſidence of the Governor-General, and of the Supreme Tribunal of the Spaniſh Iſlands; as well as of an Archbiſhop, who has ſeveral ſuffragans. Theſe advantages have prevented its becoming totally deſolate

ſolate after the loſs of its trade; indeed, the greateſt part of its inhabitants are prieſts and lawyers.

The other towns of the Spaniards, as St. Yago, Azua, Higuey, &c. are ſmall places or villages which do not deſerve a deſcription.

The Iſland of PUERTO-RICO or PORTO-RICO, ſo called from its excellent harbour, is ſituated at 18 leagues from St. Domingo, and terminates the chain of the Greater Antilles. It is a long ſquare, which is 40 leagues in length, and 12 broad. Although diſcovered and explored, in 1493, by Columbus, it did not attract the attention of the Spaniards till 1509, who then came there in crowds from St. Domingo to rummage the gold mines. All the inhabitants periſhed in a ſhort time by theſe labours; it is true that they reckoned but 60,000; at preſent it does not contain 6000 of every colour or ſex, and in this number there are only 15 or 1600 Spaniards or Mulattoes. This mountainous and unequal iſland, ſubject to exceſſive dryneſs as well as very deſtructive hurricanes, is, nevertheleſs, fruitful; but its productions do not go beyond the neceſſities of its lazy poſſeſſors. Their trade is reduced to 2000 hides in a year, with a little caſſia, maſtic, cotton, and ginger, a great many preſerved oranges and lemons, ſalt, and a good number of mules, which are ſtrong though ſmall; theſe mules, notwithſtanding the vigilance of the guarda-coſtas of Porto-Rico, who have the reputation of being the moſt inflexible of any in the Spaniſh Indies, paſs, by ſtealth, to Santa Cruz, Jamaica, and to St. Domingo. The idleneſs of this colony is protected by a garriſon of 200 men, who, with the prieſts and magiſtrates, coſt the Government 50,000 piaſtres a year. This money, joined to the value of its cattle, is ſufficient to pay the Engliſh, Dutch, French, and Danes, for the linen and other merchandizes they furniſh them with. All the utility accruing to the mother-country from this colony, is to have a place where the fleets it ſends to the New World may get water and refreſhments.

The ſeat of the Government is in the city of St. Juan, on the North ſide, defended by a citadel; its port, where the largeſt ſhips may ride at anchor in the greateſt ſecurity, is under the protection of a fort well defended. The city is tolerably handſome, but badly peopled, notwithſtanding its garriſon, its contraband trade, and its being an epiſcopal ſee. The other towns are Arezibo and St. Germano, in which there is hardly either trade or inhabitants.

Of the Britiſh *Territories.*

§ 1. *Of the Continent and the adjacent Iſlands.*

THE Spaniards formerly gave the name of Florida to all the countries which reached from Mexico to the moſt Northern regions: this appellation was preſerved as long as they were without European poſſeſſors; but as ſoon as theſe, ſpreading over North America, approached the countries occupied by the Spaniards, the name of Florida,

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Florida, confined naturally to the peninsula which Nature has formed on the Bahama Channel, did comprehend nothing beyond this boundary, but the countries in the neighbourhood of the ocean continued quite up to the river Miſſiſſipi. This is nearly what Ferdinand Soto, after the diſcovery of Juan Ponce de Leon, in 1512, firſt conquered: the daughter of a Cacique furniſhed him with the ſame means to conquer her country, as Marina had afforded to Cortez in Mexico. Soto died in this expedition, and his army would have entirely periſhed by an epidemical diſorder, if the Floridians had not had the ſimplicity to ſhew their inſatiable oppreſſors a remedy againſt it. The Spaniſh hiſtorians, ſpeaking of this army, have preſerved the name of a large greyhound who made part of it; he was called "Brutus;" his pay was equal to that of an archer, becauſe he made more ſlaughter than ten ſoldiers; at laſt the *infidels* killed him with arrows, and his death, ſays Garcilaſſo, cauſed a mourning in the army of the *Chriſtians*. All the ſpace conquered or ravaged by Soto ſoon became a large deſert; and the ſmall number of ſettlements Spain had formed there and never thought of peopling, ſerved leſs to make any advantage of the country, than to hinder another nation from ſettling in this; ſhe has been at laſt obliged to yield it to the Engliſh at the peace of 1763.

The Engliſh have divided Florida into two colonies or governments, under the names of *Eaſt* and *Weſt Florida*, whoſe limits have been fixed by the proclamation of the 7th of October, 1763.

EAST FLORIDA comprehends all the peninſula; it is bounded on the North by Georgia, and on the Weſt by the river Apalachicola. It contains 12 millions of acres, that is, about the quantity of Ireland. It is the Tegeſta of the firſt diſcoverers. The ſoil, except in the middle, is very low, and cut into lakes and rivers full of fiſh; the trees which cover it are not cloſe together as in the American foreſts, but at a diſtance from each other without any underwood. The ſhores are ſandy or marſhy to a great diſtance within land. The action of the waters violently attacking with a continual force its Southern extremity, which they inceſſantly wear away, has divided it into a number of iſlands, keys, banks, and rocks, whoſe maſs, bent from Weſt towards the North, has followed the direction of the current. This heap, in which we find many channels for ſmall veſſels, the Spaniards have called the "Iſlands and Keys of the Martyrs." Beſides, the ſituation of this colony between two ſeas renders the air colder, and the rains more frequent, than in the neighbouring parts of the Continent. The mildneſs of the ſeaſons, and the wholeſome quality of the climate, became a proverb among its firſt maſters, who went thither from the Havanna, Vera-Cruz, and elſewhere, for the recovery of their impaired health.

Its grand productions are cattle, and maize, of which they make two harveſts in a year. The Engliſh have no colony which affords a greater variety of trees and ſhrubs; the enumeration of them would be infinite; ſome ſerve for building, for the uſe of the carpenter, or for furniture, ſuch as the different pines, the ſpruce-fir, the evergreen-oak, the cheſnut-oak, mahogany, different kinds of walnut-tree, maple,

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aſh, &c. but eſpecially the mulberry-trees, which here grow much larger than in any other part of America: others ſerve for dying, as fuſtic, braziletto, logwood, &c. the ſaſſafras and Tolu tree are uſed in phyſic: the magnolia, tulip-laurel, the tupelow-tree, &c. are become the greateſt ornaments of gardens: other ſhrubs may become of great conſequence in trade, ſuch as the myrtle-wax-ſhrub, which grows in every ſoil, the opuntia or the cochineal fig-tree, the ſenna-ſhrub, &c. to this we may add, that Eaſt Florida has the greateſt part of the fruit-trees of the New World, and almoſt all thoſe of Europe ſucceed wonderfully there; and that one may cultivate with ſucceſs not only all the productions of the Antilles, but likewiſe ſilk, indigo, and vines. In 1772, they had already exported from this colony 30,000 weight of indigo, of an excellent quality. It is alſo the only Engliſh ſettlement that produces much of the plant called barilla or kali, with which they make in Spain pearl-aſhes, and of which we import ſuch large quantities for the manufactures of glaſs and ſoap; all the ſhores and overflowed lands are covered with it.

Eaſt Florida, deſolate in ſome degree when it was yielded to England, as yet contains but a ſmall number of planters. It is known that the remainder of its ancient inhabitants have been exterminated by the Creeks, a ſavage nation who live more within land. The capital, where the Governor reſides, is St. Auguſtin, a little fortified town of about 900 houſes, taking in thoſe of the ſuburbs. The few inhabitants are of all colours, among them we cannot help remarking the Greeks, who have been brought thither from the Archipelago. The harbour is one of the beſt in America, but unluckily its bar, having but ſix feet water with a ſtrong Weſterly wind, and twelve feet when it is Eaſterly, makes it only fit for ſmall veſſels. The air is very pure, and the Spaniards here lived to a very great age: it has been obſerved that the 9th regiment was twenty months in garriſon at St. Auguſtin without loſing a ſingle man. There are ſome forts and ſome habitations of Indians or Europeans within land, but the principal modern ſettlements are on the river St. John, the largeſt in the province, as well as one of the fineſt in America, navigable for near 50 leagues; it paſſes through ſeveral lakes; its banks in general are low and marſhy, and on the Eaſtern ſide, at ſome leagues to the South of St. Auguſtin, is Mr. Rolle's ſettlement, the moſt conſiderable in the colony. To give ſome idea of the riſing commerce of Eaſt Florida, we ſhall add, that, in 1770, its ports received 50 ſloops, and fitted out 52.

WEST FLORIDA, ſeparated from this by the river Apalachicola, is bounded on the South by the ſea, on the North by the 31ſt parallel of latitude, on the Weſt by the lakes Maurepas and Pontchartrain and by the river Miſſiſſipi: it is a long band of more than eighty leagues, in which ſeveral French ſettlements are incloſed, yielded to Great Britain at the ſame time as the Spaniſh part. The climate is very hot, damp, and unhealthy, particularly near the ſea; the ſtrand takes up a great depth, it is a white and dry ſand. As one advances into the country, which in general is tolerable even, the climate becomes more healthy, and the lands more fruit-

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ful;

ful; they get every year two harveſts of maize, and have very good paſtures with plenty of cattle. The trees and plants are nearly the ſame as in Eaſt Florida; but it affords ſeveral articles which are wanted there. The inland parts are alſo much better than in the neighbouring colony; its ſea-ſhores have a prodigious quantity of banks of pearl oyſters; on the ſtrands they often gather ambergris, as well as a kind of pitch which the high winds bring thither; the Spaniards, who mix it with tallow and uſe it for their ſhips, aſſure us that it does not melt ſo eaſy as common pitch. Weſt Florida produces likewiſe excellent ſalt in the neighbourhood of the Miſſiſſipi. The high grounds contain mines of copper, iron, lead, and coal; and they find orpiment and ſandarac in ſeveral places. The French build there ſeveral ſhips, and cultivate rice, cotton, and indigo; their cotton is very fine, of a bright whiteneſs; its only fault is that of being too ſhort: as to the indigo, it is more brilliant than that of the Iſland of St. Domingo.

Penſacola is the capital of the province; it is built upon a bay which receives ſeveral rivers, and ſhips lie there in ſafety from all winds. The environs are a dry ſand, where nothing grows but pine-trees fit to make maſts. This city paſſes for being unhealthy; it is to be obſerved, however, that the precautions taken to expoſe the houſes to the ſea-breeze, and to introduce a free communication of air therein as well as into the ſtreets, have much diminiſhed its unwholeſomeneſs. The colony has no other town, but ſeveral harbours; the moſt noted is that of Apalachicola.

The whole of the inhabitants of Weſt Florida may amount to 6000; but they increaſe rapidly, eſpecially towards the Miſſiſſipi, where the beauty of the country, the purity of the air, and the neighbourhood of the Spaniards, draw the planters. At preſent their trade ſeems confined to furs, which they get from the Indians in great quantities, and wood for dying and buildings, &c. Theſe articles are exchanged for the merchandizes they want of Europe. In 1768, their exports amounted to 10,495l. the next year to 10,806l. in 1770, 30 veſſels entered into their ports, and they fitted out 41.

Beſides the two Floridas, the Engliſh have claims on two conſiderable parts of the Continent, commonly comprehended in New Spain; they both come from the old Buccaniers, and many of our writers regard them with reaſon as annexed to or dependent on Jamaica. They give to the firſt ſettlement, whoſe poſſeſſion is aſſured to us by the treaty of 1763, the vague denomination of "the Bay of Honduras," becauſe it is in fact ſituated on this vaſt bay; it might be called with more propriety ENGLISH YUCATAN. The Engliſh claim formerly took up all the Eaſt ſide of the peninſula, beginning at Cape Catoche: at preſent, it contains only half this extent, or about 50 leagues of the ſhore from Hanover Bay to the bottom of the Bay of Honduras. To the North of the firſt bay the Spaniards have the town of Salamanca de Bacalar, of 120 houſes, with a bad fort and a ſmall garriſon, deſigned to hinder the contraband trade, and the excurſions of the Wood-cutters or Bay-men, but

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which it does not prevent. All this part is a low fenny country, every year covered with four or five feet water, indented by lagoons often overflown, and croſſed by ſeveral rivers, among which are two conſiderable ones, called by the Engliſh New River, and River Baliz or Belleſe. The air is unhealthy, infeſted with that ſpecies of gnats called muſketoes; the water ſwarms every where with alligators, &c. but Engliſh Yucatan produces a prodigious abundance of logwood, a quantity of mahogany, fuſtic, and other woods for dying. The Wood-cutters were originally eſtabliſhed in the Bay of Campeche, but having been driven out by the Spaniards, they took refuge near Cape Catoche, from whence a new expulſion made them retire to the drowned countries which they now occupy. In the dry ſeaſon, or the ſeaſon of cutting, they ſearch for the wood, which ſtretches in veins or bands to a great diſtance, like the veins of minerals under ground. They muſt ſometimes go ſeveral miles before they find one. When the vein is found, the Cutters build huts, cut down the trees, and take off their bark; they then make different heaps of them, to each of which there is a communication by a path which becomes a channel in the wet ſeaſon. As the wood is heavy it is with difficulty carried away by the waters: this channel ſerves to bring it down to the barcaderes (or places of loading); the traders take it at 5l. Jamaica currency (3l. 11s. 6d. ſterling) a ton, and carry it to the ſhips in boats, which from their uſe and ſhape are called "Flats." During the inundation the greater part of the Logwood-cutters live at the barcaderes, 15 or 16 leagues above the mouth of the River Belleſe; the aſſemblage of their huts forms kinds of villages, built on high banks to defend them from the riſing waters. They may be about 15 or 1600, others make them amount to 3000, maſters and ſervants, blacks or whites; the latter always go armed, and are often malefactors tranſported from the Northern plantations. They do not form a regular colony, no more than the Buccaniers their predeceſſors; but as no ſociety, not even among robbers, can ſubſiſt without ſome contract, the Wood-cutters have agreed on certain regulations among themſelves, which they follow as little as they can. Sometimes they elect a chief, by the name of king, to ſee that theſe regulations are obſerved; and one may ſay, that there is no ſovereign in the univerſe who has leſs authority, leſs luxury, leſs emoluments, and whoſe ſubjects are more diſobedient: therefore the Government is obliged to ſend judges from Jamaica to the Bay, when the diſorder is got to the height; and the commander of the king's frigate, who brings the commiſſions, takes care to ſee they have their complete execution.

The quantity of wood annually furniſhed by the Bay of Honduras has been valued at 20,000 tons. The Engliſh export only about 6000; their trade is carried on in general by North-American ſhips, who provide themſelves with merchandizes that are wanted at the Bay. All the reſt, which beſides takes in the wood of the beſt kind, is loaded by the Dutch, who bring the Cutters linen, cottons, cordage, powder and ball, ſwords, ſtrong liquors, wine, refined ſugar, earthen ware, &c. from Curacao; and as they ſell all theſe cheaper than the goods imported from Jamaica, thoſe articles only remain for the Engliſh which the Dutch cannot furniſh, as ſalt

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beef and butter, meal and bread of North America, ſome iron-ware, &c. On a very moderate calculation the annual clear profit of this trade to the Dutch amounts to 90,000l. ſterling.

The Bay of Honduras is beſprinkled with an infinity of ſhoals, rocks, and heaps of drowned iſlands, where they find plenty of green turtles. There are ſeveral channels between them, among which a ſhip ought not to get without an experienced pilot.

Among the number of theſe iſlands the only ones fit to produce any thing are Guanaja, Rattan or Ruatan, and Utila at the entrance of the Bay and near to Cape Honduras.—RATTAN is the largeſt as well as the beſt of the three; it is 10 leagues long, three broad, and contains about 250,000 acres; the climate is very healthy, the land in the vallies rich and fertile. Here are great quantities of cocoa-nuts, wild figs, and excellent grapes. The foreſts produce oaks and pines big enough for maſts of merchant-ſhips; but it has the diſadvantage of being badly ſupplied with water, and of producing many ſerpents, among which is an enormous ſpecies called "owlers:" theſe are as big as a man's waiſt, and 12 or 14 feet long, with a very wide mouth; when they lie ſtretched out at length they appear like old fallen trunks of trees, covered with a ſhort moſs. The South ſide of Rattan has ſeveral good harbours; the principal, named by the Engliſh Port Royal, is naturally guarded by rocks and ſhoals, and has an entrance ſo ſmall as to admit only one ſhip at a time. The Engliſh took poſſeſſion of it in 1742, and built a fort, in which they put a garriſon of 250 men; one Pitts, a logwood-cutter, was its firſt Governor, who never has had a ſucceſſor. Our ſhips, bound from Honduras to Jamaica, touch at Port Royal when they want water or have ſprung a leak; and thoſe which go from Jamaica to Honduras, take pilots there for the Bay. The Northern coaſt of the iſland is defended throughout by a continual reef of rocks, between which there are very few paſſages for ſmall veſſels. The Iſle of Rattan is ſo well ſituated, that it may be regarded as the key of the Bay of Honduras, and might command the trade of all the provinces which lie round this bay. We find no Spaniards there, only a few Engliſh, ſome of whom catch turtle, and ſerve for pilots to ſhips; others breed mules in meadows of ſeveral hundred acres towards the Weſt end, which is the beſt part of the iſland; they belong to the Jamaica planters, who aſſure their property by means of a Spaniſh patent; theſe patents are granted by the Governor of Truxillo, who ſells them at a very reaſonable price.

After the Bay of Honduras comes MOSQUITIA, or the MOSQUITO SHORE, where the Engliſh are eſtabliſhed, and whoſe Indian poſſeſſors, trading with nobody but the Engliſh, admit no other Europeans in their country, which extends from Cape Honduras to the river that ſerves for a diſcharge to Lake Nicaragua. This ſpace takes in 150 leagues of the ſhore, and forms an obtuſe angle at Cape Gracias a Dios, having one of its ſides expoſed to the North, the other to the Eaſt. The general name of Moſquitos is given to all the nations which occupy this extent, as well

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well as the inner ſpace between the coaſt and the higher chain of mountains. The whole of all theſe nations together is not above 30,000; the Moſquitos are the moſt numerous as well as the braveſt; they muſter from 15 to 1800 warriors: their country, properly ſo called, is about Cape Gracias a Dios, near the mouth and on the banks of the great Cape river. It is one of the moſt healthy and beautiful ſpots in the world: the Europeans do not ſuffer by any of thoſe diſorders ſo dangerous in the Weſt-Indies, and live here to a very old age. There are near 30 Engliſh families with about 100 Negroe ſlaves, who have begun plantations of ſugar on the lands given them by the Moſquitos. They diſtinguiſh two ſorts of Moſquitos, the Red, and the Black or Sambos; the firſt are the original natives of the country, the ſecond the deſcendants of about fifty Negroes, who going to be ſold in the neighbouring iſlands got their liberty by the veſſel they were in being ſhipwrecked. The Moſquitos were very willing to kill a White-man who was ſaved with the Blacks; he was a Portugueſe, and he had too much reſemblance to a Spaniard for them to ſpare him: it was determined, after two years debate, to ſacrifice him to ſerve in the other world the maſter to whoſe lot he had fallen, and who was juſt dead. Luckily the Portugueſe had but one eye; he repreſented to the nation aſſembled, that, in the other world, a one-eyed man would not be of ſervice to any body, becauſe one had not too much of both eyes to ſee clear there: the Moſquitos not only granted him his life, but they alſo gave him his liberty, with a wife, and the ſurname of "the man who knows a great deal." The Moſquitos are divided into four principal tribes, under the protection of the Engliſh; their chiefs have the commiſſions of Captain, General, Admiral, &c. which are given them with ſome preſents by the Governor of Jamaica, whom they regard as the King of the World. The implacable hatred they bear to the Spaniards by whom their anceſtors were driven from the fertile plains they enjoyed near the Lake Nicaragua, goes almoſt as far back as the diſcovery of America, and their friendſhip for the Engliſh is as old as the expeditions of the Buccaniers againſt their common enemy. Like all uncivilized nations, they have few wants, and are very indolent; "I am not hungry" is their ſaying when they do not chuſe to work: in effect, they never labour but when this need is very ſenſible; then they go to hunt, fiſh, or catch and harpoon turtle, and manati or ſea-cows, an exerciſe at which they are remarkably dexterous; or elſe they hire themſelves to the Engliſh to cut mahogany, build canoes, which are ſold at Jamaica, to go a harpooning, &c. One might cultivate rice, cacao, indigo, ſilk-graſs, tobacco, &c. to advantage in this country; at preſent we get from it tiger and buck ſkins, dying woods of ſeveral kinds, gums and balſams, indigo, cochineal, ſarſaparilla, tortoiſe-ſhells, zebra-wood for the cabinet-makers, &c. but all theſe only in ſmall quantities. All the wild nations, both inland and upon the coaſt, are allies of the Moſquitos, and of the Engliſh. We are ſorry to find that our traders, who do not ſeem in theſe parts under any government, have often rendered themſelves as odious as the Spaniards. Several have been accuſed, on too much foundation, of having excited the Moſquitos at dif-

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ferent times againſt the nations on the ſea-coaſt, to have an occaſion of purchaſing the priſoners, whom they afterwards ſold to the Dutch, and in our iſlands and Northern ſettlements; they have even kidnapped ſome of theſe wretched Indians and tranſported them as ſlaves into the plantations. The indignation excited by ſuch horrible attempts increaſes, when one finds they have not been puniſhed.

Among the different nations who inhabit the ſea-ſhore on the Eaſtern ſide, we diſtinguiſh the Woolvas, and the Ramas, in the neighbourhood of the river St. Juan. Theſe two nations are very mild, and have the ſame manners as the Moſquitos: their coaſt preſents two very extenſive lagoons, wherein ſeveral navigable rivers empty their waters; one called Pearl Key lagoon, on account of the pearl oyſters which are in plenty about it; the other Blewfields lagoon, from the name of a famous Jamaican Buccanier in the laſt century; this forms a large harbour, whoſe depth of water is from three fathom to three and a half; a bar of 12 or 16 feet of water hinders the entrance of any beſides ſmall veſſels. The neighbouring land is fertile, and its climate very healthy; the banks of its principal river are covered with cedars, large mahogany-trees, and plenty of other trees good for building either houſes or ſhips. One might eaſily fortify Blewfields Bluff, at the entrance of this harbour; for ſtone is found near it in abundance, and the oyſter-ſhells would afford all the lime neceſſary. This high eminence has a flat at top of about 1500 acres, on which one cannot land but by two places eaſy to guard; it is joined to the Continent on the North part by a low iſthmus, ſandy on the ſides, and fenny, with mangrove-trees, in the middle. There is the moſt grand and extenſive proſpect of the ſea and land to the South from the top of this eminence. Theſe two lagoons are frequented by ſome people from Jamaica, who come to cut mahogany, and to fiſh for turtle, both on the coaſt and in the adjacent iſlands. The Corn Iſlands, the Iſle of St. Andres, and of OLD PROVIDENCE, farther off than the others, are likewiſe much larger. The laſt, at preſent uninhabited, belonged originally to the Earls of Warwick, and its poſſeſſion was ſecured to England by the 8th article of the American treaty in 1670; it has been very much celebrated in the Hiſtory of the Buccaniers, who fortified it, and made it for ſome time their principal retreat: it is only two leagues and a half long, and one broad; its moſt Northerly point, called Santa Catalina, or St. Catherine's iſland, is ſeparated from the main body by a narrow channel, on which the Buccaniers had built a bridge. Notwithſtanding the ſmallneſs of this iſland, it may be conſidered as one of the beſt in the Weſt-Indies, both on account of its fruitfulneſs and the ſalubrity of its air, to which we may add the facility of fortifying its ſhores; it is watered by four ſtreams, two only of which are dry in ſummer; the woods, compoſed of cedars, fuſtic, and other trees for dying, are full of an incredible number of pigeons; there is not a ſerpent or any other venomous creature to be found. The iſland is ſurrounded with reefs, which leave a paſſage for ſhips along its circuit; and it has an excellent harbour on the Eaſt ſide: the ſea affords great plenty of fiſh and

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turtle. Such a multiplicity of advantages deſerve inhabitants to enjoy them, and it is ſurpriſing that Old Providence has been forſaken and deſolate ſince the laſt century.

If from this iſland, ſo unreaſonably neglected, we tranſport ourſelves to the Moſquito Shore expoſed to the North, we ſhall find, at above 20 leagues to the Eaſt of Cape Honduras, an Engliſh ſettlement at the mouth of BLACK RIVER, by whoſe name it is generally known. This ſame river the Spaniards call Rio Tinto; its entrance, the only harbour on all this coaſt from Rattan to Cape Gracias a Dios, was for more than 60 years the refuge of the Logwood-cutters, when the Spaniards drove them from the foreſts of Eaſt Yucatan; they waited there in ſafety for the moment their enemies ſhould retire. As theſe expulſions were very frequent, and always unforeſeen, the ſhips which went to load with logwood in the Bay of Honduras choſe to touch firſt at the Black-River, to get intelligence, and to determine in conſequence the manner of purſuing their voyage. Wood-cutters, ſailors, deſerters, and adventurers of ſeveral kinds, fixed themſelves inſenſibly in this place; they received merchandizes in return for the fruits of their induſtry, and ſoon eſtabliſhed a lucrative trade with the Spaniards in the inland parts. The laſt treaty of peace, which ſecures to the Wood-cutters the uninterrupted enjoyment of their foreſts, far from making the Black River deſerted, has given more activity to the ſettlement. The ſea-coaſt is ſandy, generally low and ſwampy, with mangrove-trees: higher up upon the rivers and lagoons, the ſoil, more fertile, produces many plantains, coco-trees, maize, yams, potatoes, and ſeveral other vegetables; the paſſion of drinking rum has made them begin the planting of ſugar-canes. The rivers, as well as the lagoons, are extremely well ſtored with fiſh, the foreſts filled with deer, pecarys or Mexican ſwine, and game. On the ſhores they catch the fineſt turtle, from March to June, and from Auguſt to the end of September: beſides this fiſhery, which is very plentiful, the Black-River ſettlers cut mahogany and zebra wood, and gather a great deal of ſarſaparilla. Theſe ſettlers, ſtill fewer in number than thoſe of the Bay of Honduras, are, like them, under the inſpection of the commander of the frigate which cruizes on the coaſt: but the colony is ſo well ſituated that it cannot fail of increaſing; the Government, who deſtroyed their fort at the peace, in vain neglects it. It is one of thoſe plants, which, placed by chance in a happy corner of the garden, flouriſh, increaſe, and bear fruit of themſelves, without the gardener's giving himſelf the trouble of watering or taking care of them.

§ 2.

Of the Engliſh *Iſlands.*

THE Engliſh Iſlands in the Archipelago of the Weſt-Indies afford ſeveral diviſions, that we are obliged to follow, as well for the relief of the reader, as to keep

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to the methodical progreſſion we have preſcribed to ourſelves in this deſcriptive abridgement.

Jamaica, one of the Greater Antilles, ought to form alone one of theſe diviſions.

The ſecond will be compoſed of the iſlands, properly called Caribbee Iſlands.

In the third will be compriſed thoſe that the Engliſh call Leeward Caribbees.

The Virgin Iſles, towards the Weſt of theſe, will form the fourth; and,

Laſtly, the Bahama Iſlands, with ſome adjacent iſles, will afford matter for a fifth.

JAMAICA, the largeſt of the Engliſh iſlands, was diſcovered in 1494 by the great Columbus, who did not make any ſettlement there. Some years after, in his fourth expedition, he was caſt aſhore by a ſtorm; the loſs of his ſhips putting it out of his power to get away, he implored the humanity of the ſavages, and he received from them all the helps of a natural compaſſion: but theſe people, who planted only for their own neceſſities, were tired with maintaining ſtrangers who put them in danger of ſtarving by a famine, and removed themſelves inſenſibly from their neighbourhood. The Spaniards no longer kept any meaſure with the Indians, and ſoon grew ſo mutinous as to take arms againſt their commander. Columbus, forced to yield to their threats, to get out of a deſperate ſituation, took the advantage of one of thoſe appearances of Nature, where a man of genius ſometimes finds a reſource, pardonable through neceſſity: his aſtronomical knowledge informed him that there would ſoon be an eclipſe of the moon; he deſired all the Caciques to aſſemble together to hear from him ſome things very important to their ſafety. When he was in the midſt of them, after having reproached them for the cruelty with which they ſuffered him and his companions to periſh, "To puniſh you for it," ſaid he with an air of inſpiration, "the God whom I adore is going to inflict on you one of his moſt terrible ſtrokes; this evening you will ſee the moon redden, grow dark, and refuſe you light; this is only the prelude of your misfortunes, if you perſiſt in refuſing to give me proviſions." Columbus had hardly ceaſed ſpeaking, when his prophecy was accompliſhed; the fright was general among the ſavages, they thought themſelves deſtroyed, begged for mercy, and promiſed every thing. He then declared to them, that heaven, touched with their repentance, had appeaſed its wrath, and that Nature was going to reſume its courſe. After this moment proviſions arrived from all parts, and Columbus was in want of nothing till his departure.

The court of Spain had granted the property of Jamaica to Columbus, who gave it the preference to all the other parts, on account of its populouſneſs and happy ſituation; he called it the Sicily of the Indies. Don Diego his ſon was the firſt Governor of it, with the title of Duke de la Vega, from the city of St. Jago de la Vega, founded by him, and which became its capital. Don Diego had cauſed 70 vagabonds to go over from St. Domingo, under the conduct of Juan d'Eſquimel; others

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others ſoon followed them, and in a few years all the Indians, to the number of more than 60,000, diſappeared quite to the laſt man.

The Spaniards had built ſeveral other cities in this unhappy iſland, but all their ſettlements, erected on the dead remains of the Indians, fell to decay as faſt as the depopulation increaſed; and the ravagers were convinced that the iſland produced no gold: they were ſoon reduced to that of St. Jago de la Vega, which then conſiſted of 1700 houſes, four churches, and an abbey. The inhabitants of this city, plunged into the indolence that follows tyranny after devaſtation, contented themſelves to live on ſome plantations, whoſe overplus they ſold to the ſhips which paſſed by their coaſts. The whole people of the iſland, collected into a ſmall territory which nouriſhed this uſeleſs race of deſtroyers, was confined to 1500 ſlaves commanded by as many tyrants; when the Engliſh coming at laſt to attack their capital, made themſelves maſters of it, and ſettled there in 1655.

With them entered diſcord; they brought the moſt unlucky ſeeds of it. At firſt, their new colony had only 3000 inhabitants, part of that fanatical militia that had fought and triumphed under the rebellious ſtandard of Cromwell. They were ſoon joined by a number of royaliſts, who went to America to meet with ſome alleviation for their defeat, and to enjoy the calm of peace. The ſpirit of diviſion which had ſo long and ſo cruelly rent the two parties in Europe, followed them beyond the ſeas; there was enough to renew in the New World the ſcenes of horror and bloodſhed ſo often repeated in the Old. But Admiral Penn and Colonel Venables, after conquering Jamaica, had left the command to one of the wiſeſt and braveſt men, who by good luck was the ſenior officer; it was D'Oyley, a friend to the Stuarts. Cromwell twice ſubſtituted ſome of his party in his place, and both times their deaths reſtored D'Oyley to the head of affairs. His manner of ruling was quite military; he had to keep in order and to govern an infant colony entirely compoſed of ſoldiers, and to prevent or repel the invaſions of the Spaniards, who might try to recover what they had juſt loſt. But when Charles II. was reſtored to the throne, from which the axe of the fanatics had thrown his father, a civil government was eſtabliſhed at Jamaica, formed, like thoſe in the other iſlands, after the model of the mother-country; but the firſt attempts were confined to compiling, without any method, ſome proviſional regulations for the police, juſtice, and finances. It was not till 1682 that the body of laws was formed, which at preſent keeps the iſland in vigour.

Soon after the Reſtoration the colony was ſo increaſed that it contained 18,000 perſons, who had almoſt no other trade but their depredations on the Spaniards. Sir Thomas Modiford was then governor, a rich planter of Barbadoes, who came to Jamaica to increaſe his poſſeſſions; he introduced in this iſland the art of making ſugar, of planting cacao-trees, and he erected ſalt-works. His attention to encourage culture and induſtry could not make the people of Jamaica give up their maritime expeditions; adventurers of all kinds increaſed the croud of theſe romantic pirates, who often deſerved the appellation of heroes known by the name of Free-

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booters and Buccaniers; they infeſted the whole Weſt-Indian Sea, and laid waſte all the coaſts of the New World. The plunder of Mexico and Peru was always carried to Jamaica, both by the natives and ſtrangers; they found in this iſland a greater facility, received more protection and liberty than elſewhere, both to diſembark and to ſpend, at their own pleaſure, the booty they had acquired in their courſes. There the extravagance of their debaucheries ſoon plunged them into diſtreſs. This only ſting of their cruel and bloody induſtry made them fly to new combats and to new prey. Thus the colony profited by their continual changes of fortune, and enriched itſelf by the vices which were the origin and ruin of their treaſures: and when this lawleſs race was deſtroyed by its own activity, theſe ſame treaſures became the baſe of a new opulence, by the help they afforded to increaſe the plantations and productions, or to open a contraband trade with the Spaniards. Under whatever point of view any one conſiders Jamaica, he will ſee that England owes the keeping of it, as well as the means which determined the grandeur of its ſettlement, to the Buccaniers. Jamaica is placed in the moſt happy ſituation, at 36 leagues to the South of Cuba, and 39 leagues to the Weſt of St. Domingo; theſe two large iſlands defend it from the winds which deſolate the Atlantic, whilſt the number and diſpoſition of its harbours put it in a condition to carry on a great trade either with theſe and the other iſlands of the Weſt-Indian Sea, or with the Continent. There are about ſixteen principal harbours, beſides 30 bays, roads, or good anchoring-places. Though this ſituation may expoſe it to the inſults of its too powerful neighbours, it, at the ſame time, facilitates the entrance of the ſuccours the mother-country has laviſhed on it at all times. Its ſhape is an irregular oval, whoſe length is about 54 leagues, and breadth 16, containing near four millions of acres, that is, about four times as much land as all the other Engliſh Sugar-Iſlands taken together; in this number there are about 1,500,000 patented, although the cleared lands do not amount to near this quantity, ſince it is ſuppoſed that no more than a ſeventh of the iſland is cultivated.

The iſland, whoſe aſpect, always verdant, affords a delicious proſpect to thoſe who approach by ſea, is traverſed, throughout its whole length from Weſt to Eaſt, by a chain of high mountains, compoſed of rocks and of very hard clay; the Eaſtern part of them, famous by the name of the "Blue Mountains," defends the Southern coaſt from the violent and dangerous North-Weſt winds. All this great chain emits from North to South a number of lower ranges, forming on both ſides the narrow channels of 200 rivers that are reckoned in the iſland, among which they find 70 wherein ſmall boats may enter laden; but as the mountains are ſteep and rugged, and come very near the ſea, the rivers in general are rapid torrents full of cataracts; when they overflow in the rainy ſeaſon, they render the communication very dangerous, and their inundations hurt the land inſtead of making it fertile; moſt of them, however, are well ſtored with fiſh, and all afford water fit to drink.

The climate of Jamaica, as well as of all countries between the Tropics, is very hot near the ſea, and very unhealthy in the low marſhy parts; it is true, that the

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conſtant breeze a good deal moderates this heat, which is extreme about eight or nine in the morning: but in the higher grounds, the climate, naturally more variable, is likewiſe more cool and healthy; and perſons who live temperately arrive to a very old age, without being much troubled with diſorders. The plantations have made the climate much wholeſomer than it was formerly: it is, however, certain, that the temperature has been altered for the worſt by the great earthquake in 1692; and the iſland, which was then thought to be out of the reach of the hurricanes, has terribly ſuffered by them ſince that memorable epoch. They are moſt apprehended in September, which is the time of the greateſt rains; theſe periodical rains, the cauſe of fruitfulneſs, are called "Seaſons." Jamaica, beſides, is ſubject to earthquakes. Thunder is very frequent, particularly in the mountains and the Weſtern parts: there are ſometimes ſtorms of hail, but never any ice or ſnow, except on the top of the mountains, where the air is extremely cold, even at a moderate height.

The North ſide is the moſt healthy, and the trees there grow much finer than on the South; but the North-Weſt winds, which often blow with violence, render it in general leſs fit for the planting of canes than the laſt, whoſe ſugar is of the beſt quality.

One may eaſily conceive, that, in an iſland ſo extenſive, and whoſe ſurface is ſo irregular, the ſoil ought to be prodigiouſly varied; that which is moſt eſteemed on account of its fertility is called in the country brick-mould, but all the other kinds may be rendered fertile with little labour, and by appropriating productions fit to each. I do not ſpeak of the ſavannas, or of thoſe large plains without any ſtones, wherein the ancient Indians gathered an extreme plenty of maize, and where the Spaniards, who turned them into meadows, fed an incredible number of cattle.

It would be endleſs to enumerate and particularize all the productions of Jamaica; the vegetable kingdom appears there in its glory, and beauty is always joined to excellence. Grains and pulſe, flowers, fruits, roots, plants and trees, are both valuable and plentiful: the iſland nouriſhes all the animals of Europe, very large cattle, ſheep whoſe fleſh is of an exceeding good taſte although the wool is very bad, and a quantity of hogs which afford a delicious food; both ſea and river fiſh, with all ſorts of wild fowl as well as domeſtic, are found in profuſion; and near the ſea are large ſalt-works, which furniſh the inhabitants with all the ſalt they want.

Sugar ought to be placed at the head of all thoſe productions: the cane which produces it has been cultivated time out of mind in ſome countries of Aſia and Africa; from Madeira and the Canary Iſlands it has been carried to the New World, where it thrives as well as if it was a native: it is a kind of reed which riſes commonly about eight or nine feet, taking in the leaves growing out of the top; the moſt common thickneſs is from two to four inches. It requires a light, porous, and deep ſoil, and is uſually cut at the end of eighteen months. Within twenty-four hours after the canes are cut down, they break them between two rollers of iron or copper, which

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which are put in motion by a horizontal wheel turned by oxen or horſes. The juice, with which the inner part of the canes is filled, is received in a reſervoir, from whence it is ſucceſſively carried to ſeveral boilers, to reduce it into cryſtals; as ſoon as it is cold, they pour it into earthen veſſels made in the ſhape of a cone: the baſe of the cone is open, its apex pierced with a hole, through which they let the liquor run which will not afford any cryſtals; this liquor is what is called treacle, or molaſſes. After the draining they have muſcovado or rough ſugar; it is greaſy, brown, and ſoft. This ſugar does not become white, ſhining, and hard, till it is refined in Europe; we may obſerve here that there are two refining houſes at Kingſton. The molaſſes are uſually worth the twelfth part of the value of the ſugar; there is a good deal conſumed in the North of Europe and of America, where they ſupply the place of butter and ſugar to the common people; the Americans uſe them to produce a fermentation, and give an agreeable taſte to a drink called "Pruſs," which is nothing more than the infuſion of the bark of a tree. Theſe molaſſes are likewiſe prodigiouſly uſeful, ſince the ſecret has been diſcovered to convert them by diſtillation into a ſpirituous liquor known by the name of rum. The operation is made by mixing one-third of ſyrup with two-thirds of water; when theſe two ſubſtances have ſufficiently fermented, at the end of twelve or fifteen days, they are put into a ſtill, where the diſtillation is carried on in the common manner. The annual exports of Jamaica in theſe ſeveral articles, the produce of ſugar-canes, come at preſent to near 100,000 hogſheads of ſugar, 30,000 puncheons, or three million gallons of rum, and 300,000 gallons of molaſſes.

Pimento is, after ſugar, the moſt conſiderable article of the Jamaican culture, ſince above three millions of pounds weight are exported every year. There are ſeveral kinds more or leſs ſtrong, and more or leſs acrid. The tree, which produces the kind of Pimento known by the name of Jamaica Pepper, was not cultivated in regular plantations till the year 1668; it commonly grows on the mountains, and riſes above 30 feet high; it is very ſtraight, of a middling thickneſs, and covered with a grey cloſe ſhining bark; the leaves are in all reſpects like the laurel; at the end of the branches grow the flowers, to which ſucceed berries a little larger than juniper; they are gathered green, and ſet to dry in the ſun; they grow brown, and get that ſpicy ſmell which has given to Pimento the name of All-Spice: its uſe is excellent to ſtrengthen the cold ſtomach ſubject to crudities. To the culture of Pimento the people of Jamaica join that of ginger, the uſe of which we have learnt from the Caribbs. It is the root of a ſmall plant, about 18 or 20 inches high: it was prodigiouſly in vogue about the middle of the laſt century, but ſince that time it has by degrees grown out of faſhion, and is now only a ſecondary article in trade; eſpecially ſince the conſumption of the Ruſſians and Germans is become very inconſiderable; ſo that the annual export is reduced to 500 bags, each of 500 pounds weight.

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The diminution of this branch, however prejudicial, is not ſo ſeverely felt as the almoſt total annihilation of two branches of culture of the firſt kind, thoſe of indigo and of cacao. In 1672, Jamaica had 60 indigo plantations, which produced yearly 50,000l. worth of indigo; they are now reduced to eight, and an injudicious parliamentary duty has ruined this branch, which the French have got hold of with ſuch advantage, that it is almoſt impoſſible to recover it.

Cacao proſpered at the ſame time as indigo; Jamaica had then 60 cacao walks in produce, and many new ones under cultivation. Some years afterwards they were all deſtroyed at once by a blaſt, as it is aſſerted; they never have been renewed ſince, and there is hardly one in this iſland, where chocolate is of general uſe. The productions which promiſe to increaſe are cotton and coffee; perhaps the ſuppreſſion, ordained in 1766, of the tax laid on foreign cottons, will ſomewhat retard the plantations of this article; thoſe of coffee, adopted by the people of Jamaica, ſeem to be favoured by the duty laid on coffees imported from any other place but the Britiſh ſettlements; but to the preſent time the French have maintained their ſuperiority in the manner of ſhipping this article for Europe, which is ſuch that their coffee preſerves all its qualities and virtues. Jamaica exports annually 1000 bags of cotton, each weighing 180 pounds; and 800 caſks of coffee, of 300 pounds each.

Beſides the capital objects we have juſt ſpecified, this iſland produces a number of trees, ſhrubs, and uſeful plants, ſome of them natives of its ſoil, others brought from the other iſlands or the continent; among theſe we ought to diſtinguiſh,—The mahogany which is uſed in Europe for ſo many purpoſes; there was formerly a prodigious abundance on the ſhores, but at preſent they muſt go ten or twelve miles within land, and get nearer to the mountains, to find any; this diſtance rendering it more inconvenient and more expenſive to tranſport, the Jamaicans get a great deal from the coaſts of Spaniſh America, not quite ſo good but much cheaper than their own, which they ſend to Great-Britain; in the year 1770 they exported to the value of 50,000l. ſterling.—The ſilk-cotton-tree, whoſe trunk is often 80 feet high to its branches, and 12 or 14 feet in circumference; they make of it canoes or periagas of 25 tons burthen.—The dogwood, which does not yield to the Engliſh oak for hardneſs.—The bitterwood, much uſed by carpenters.—The baſtard mammea, or wood of St. Mary, whoſe height and quality make it fit for building ſhips and houſes, as well as the cedar, odoriferous and incorruptible; this, beſides, ſerves to cover and wainſcot houſes, to make pencils, &c. and for many purpoſes of the cabinet-makers.—The lignum-vitæ, excellent for joiners and turners; the properties of its gum, called gum-guiacum, are well known.——Among the trees uſeful in domeſtic œconomy are, — The oil-nut-tree, or palma Chriſti, a tree 15 or 16 feet high, loaden with nuts affording plenty of an oil which is of great uſe, as well as that of the palm-tree; this laſt is much eſteemed by the Negroes. — The coco-tree and date-tree produce fruits at the ſame time cooling and nouriſhing.—The cabbage-tree, a beautiful tree whoſe ſtem grows to a prodigious height, ſome having been

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ſeen

ſeen 270 feet high; it produces at the top a ſubſtance which has the appearance and taſte of a cabbage.—The tamarind-tree, whoſe fruit is ſo well known; they get a valuable verniſh by inciſion from the tree, and might extract an uſeful oil from the nuts.—The aloes, or ſoap-tree, affords an excellent ſoap fit for all the purpoſes of the laundreſs.—The red mangrove and the black olive tree ſerve for the tanning of hides, and their bark is infinitely preferable to that of the oak for this purpoſe. For the uſe of the joiners and cabinet-makers, Jamaica produces the roſe-wood, black and white ebony, Spaniſh elm or princes-wood, zebra-wood, muſk-wood, and manchineal; all the parts of this laſt, leaves, juice, and fruit which is a little apple like a crab-apple, are a more or leſs deadly poiſon. A dyer might furniſh himſelf with all his ingredients at Jamaica, except indigo which is unluckily neglected; you will find there the brazileto; the fuſtic, which, beſides, is one of the beſt woods for building; the logwood, which has been naturalized in the iſland ſince 1715, when they brought the ſeeds from Campeche; the opuntia or cochineal fig-tree; the anatta or rocou, formerly much in vogue to make the colour called "Aurora." For medicinal uſes, beſides the guiacum, tamarind, oils, &c. this iſland produces the wild cinnamon-tree (which is the canella alba of the ſhops, where it is uſed for the Cortex Winteranus), the ſarſaparilla, china-root, caſſia, aloes, &c.

Jamaica is divided into three counties, Surry, Middleſex, and Cornwall; which contain 19 pariſhes: over each of them preſides a magiſtrate called a Cuſtos. There are but few towns in the iſland, and the reaſon is, that the greater part of the inhabitants are diſperſed on their plantations, which form ſo many villages or hamlets. St. Jago de la Vega, commonly called Spaniſh-Town, in Middleſex, is the capital of the iſland; it is a ſmall city with about 20 ſtreets and 4000 people, in a ſituation tolerably healthy: it is the reſidence of the Governor, of the Courts of Juſtice, and the place where the Aſſembly is held. The greater part of the inhabitants are perſons of fortune or rank, which gives it an air of ſplendor and magnificence; it has need of all theſe advantages to maintain itſelf, being at two leagues diſtance from the ſea, and deſtitute of trade; it has a very handſome church, a chapel, and a Jewiſh ſynagogue; the principal building is the Governor's houſe, one of the handſomeſt in America.

Between this town and that of Kingſton is Fort Paſſage, a little village of fifteen houſes, ſo called, becauſe thoſe who go from one town to the other land or embark there. The town of Kingſton, in the county of Surry, is the moſt conſiderable in the iſland, being the reſidence of the merchants, and the chief place for trade. Its plan is a parallelogram, a mile and a half long, and half a mile broad; all the ſtreets, which are broad and regular, croſs each other at right angles; they contain 1665 houſes, without taking in the habitations of the Negroes and the ſtorehouſes. Its inhabitants may amount to 11,000, among whom are about 5000 Whites, and 1200 free Negroes or Mulattoes; the reſt are compoſed of ſlaves: the houſes are finer than thoſe of St. Jago de la Vega, but the air is not ſo healthy as in this laſt

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town. The Jews, who are very numerous here, have a fine ſynagogue, in which the principal Rabbi of the iſland officiates.

The Port of Kingſton, ſeated at the bottom of a deep bay on the Southern coaſt, will admit 1000 ſhips at a time, and thoſe of 200 tons come quite up to the key; upon an average of twenty years, the ſhips, both great and ſmall, which go out annually from this port, amount to 400, and the annual ſtate of the ſhipping of the iſland is about five hundred, making 58,000 tons, which employ three thouſand White ſailors.

Upon the dry and ſandy neck of land about three leagues long, that ſeparates the Harbour of Kingſton from the ſea, is the ſmall town of Port-Royal, the moſt conſiderable and richeſt of the iſland at the time of the Buccaniers, whoſe diſorders it cheriſhed. Port-Royal contained then 2000 houſes, of which 1600 were ſwallowed up or overturned by the remarkable earthquake that happened in 1692; they had rebuilt a great part of them, which were conſumed by a fire in 1703. The excellence of the ſituation engaged the people to rebuild them a ſecond time, when a hurricane, in 1722, made them a heap of ruins; theſe were again raiſed, but again deſtroyed, in 1744, by another hurricane. The harbour, joining to the Bay of Kingſton, is very large and deep; it is the ſtation of our fleet, and has a good careening-place: when there is a war with Spain, this fleet is ſtationed at Point Negril, the Weſtern end of the iſland. On the extremity of the neck of land is Fort Charles, mounted with 126 pieces of cannon which defend the entrance of the harbour, together with the croſſed fire of ſeveral other batteries.

The adminiſtration of public affairs in Jamaica is by a Governor who repreſents the King, a council of 12 which form the Upper Houſe, and the 43 repreſentatives of the people which compoſe the Lower Houſe, and are choſen by the pariſhes. The whole of the emoluments of the Governor in time of peace amounts to 5000l. a year; the annual ſupply required from the colony may be about 30,000l. beſides 8000l. the amount of its revenue; and the total of all the taxes, both public and parochial, is never above 60,000l. a year.

In 1673, Jamaica contained but 18,068 inhabitants, of whom 8564 were Whites, and 9504 Blacks: in 1768, they reckoned 17,949 Whites, and 166,904 Blacks, including the free Negroes and Mulattoes. This difference in the reſpective increaſes of the Blacks and Whites ſhews how much eaſier it is to augment ſlavery than liberty. As the number of people, as well as the culture, have increaſed ſince this laſt epoch, they eſtimate, at preſent, the number of plantations and inhabitants of Jamaica as follows, viz. 680 plantations of ſugar, 110 cotton works, 100 Pimento walks, 30 plantations of ginger, 500 breeding penns, 600 polink and proviſion places, 150 plantations of coffee, and 8 indigo works; all which take up and employ 600,000 acres, 18,000 Whites, 170,000 Blacks, and 136,000 horſes, mules, or horned cattle. This number of Negroes requires a recruit of 6000 every year. Among the Whites, who all are enrolled and form a national militia, are reckoned

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8 or 900 Jews. Jamaica is perhaps the only place in the world where they have a country, ſince it is the only one where a right has been given them to carry arms for its defence: they have juſtified the confidence of the legiſlature in an invaſion made by the French, where they behaved with a great deal of courage. The Jews poſſeſs ſeveral eſtates, and carry on an extenſive trade, eſpecially with the Spaniards. Their ſobriety and manner of living make them come to a greater age in Jamaica than the other Whites; but one is ſorry to find that they have carried to this iſland a ſpirit of diviſion in their tenets which renders them ſometimes unhappy, and often ridiculous. In the number of Blacks are reckoned 3608 free Mulattoes and Negroes, who are incorporated in the national militia. There are likewiſe included 8 or 900 Maron Negroes; theſe form a ſavage republic divided into ſix villages in the mountains: they are the deſcendants of runaway ſlaves who have forced the Government to acknowledge their independance. By the treaty concluded with them, in 1739, they poſſeſs ſome lands whoſe product belongs to them, and are obliged to march for a fixed ſalary in caſe of an invaſion, as well as to reſtore fugitive ſlaves for a ſettled premium. Their Chiefs, diſtinguiſhed by a medal hung to a ſilver chain, are under the inſpection of a White called the Superintendant, without whoſe permiſſion not one of the Marons can go out of his diſtrict.

The commerce of Jamaica is very conſiderable, not only with Great-Britain and Ireland, but likewiſe with Africa, North and South America, the Weſt-India iſlands, and the Spaniſh main; it is ſufficient to ſay, that the whole of its annual exports is reckoned, by a mean proportion, at 1,310,000l. while the total of the imports amounts to 1,054,000l.

About 55 leagues towards the N.N.W. of Jamaica are three little iſlands, dependant on this, and known by the name of the CAYMANS: the moſt Southerly bears the name of GREAT CAYMAN; the two others, diſtant from it about 20 leagues to the N.N.E. are called LITTLE CAYMAN and CAYMAN-BRACK. Great Cayman is the only one which is conſtantly inhabited; it is very low, covered with high trees, and the inhabitable part about a league $\frac{1}{2}$ long. It has no harbour for ſhips of burden, only a tolerable anchoring-place on the South-Weſt. The inhabitants, who amount to about 160, are deſcended from the old Buccaniers; they have given themſelves a ſet of laws, and chuſe a Chief to ſee them executed, in conjunction with the Juſtices of Peace appointed by commiſſion from the Governor of Jamaica. As they have no clergymen among them, they go to be married at Jamaica. This colony is undoubtedly the happieſt in the Weſt-Indies; the climate and the kind of food, which are of a ſingular ſalubrity, rendering the people healthy and vigorous, make them live to a very old age. Their little iſland produces plenty of corn and vegetables, hogs and poultry, much beyond what is required for their own conſumption; they have, beſides, ſugar-canes, and ſome ſprings of pretty good water. Being quite hardened to the ſea, they are excellent pilots for the neighbouring coaſts; and their iſland, as well as their activity and humanity, have been many times a relief to ſhips which were diſtreſſed in

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in this part of the ſea: their principal employment is fiſhing for turtle. Inſtinct every year leads a prodigious number of turtles to theſe iſlands to lay their eggs; the greater part come from the Bay of Honduras; and their navigation is ſo regular and ſo exact in this paſſage of about 150 leagues, that it is aſſerted, that veſſels, which had loſt their latitude in hazy weather, have been ſucceſsfully conducted by the noiſe theſe creatures make in ſwimming towards the Caymans. The low and ſandy ſhores of theſe iſlands, particularly of the Great, are perfectly adapted to receive and cover their eggs. A female lays about 900; when they have done laying, the turtles retire towards the iſle of Cuba and the other large iſlands, where they recover themſelves in the ſubmarine paſtures, and in about a month's time acquire that fatneſs which makes them ſo much eſteemed on the tables of the great. The inhabitants of Great Cayman ſhut them up, as ſoon as they are caught, in incloſures which they call "Cralls," made with ſtakes, in a ſmooth water between the ſhore and a reef of rocks on the N. E. coaſt. Theſe turtles ſerve for all the traffic they carry on with Port-Royal; it is an article of food very wholeſome, and the ſhell of the Hawks-bill kind is a commodity which has a place among the exportations to Great Britain.

If we follow the courſe marked out at the beginning of this ſection, we ſhall tranſport ourſelves from Jamaica to the Caribbee Iſles, beginning with the moſt Southerly of the whole chain, which is Tobago.

TOBAGO, eleven leagues diſtant from Trinidad, at firſt belonged to the Dutch, who made an eſtabliſhment there in 1632; they were expelled by the Indians, and ſoon after the Courlanders took their place under the protection of the Engliſh. The French, who afterwards conquered the iſland, only returned it to the Dutch to drive them out in 1677, and leave it deſolate. After this time Tobago was regarded as a neutral iſle till the peace of 1763, which aſſured its poſſeſſion to the Engliſh.

This iſland is about 25 leagues in circumference; it is covered throughout with little hills that might be cultivated, and has but a very ſmall number of craggy mountains at the N. E. extremity; out of all theſe high grounds run numerous ſtreams and rivers, moſt of which ſeem deſigned to turn ſugar-mills. The air is ſo cooled by the ſea-breezes, that, notwithſtanding its vicinity to the Line, it becomes very ſupportable even to Europeans. The coaſts afford ten or twelve large and convenient bays, among which are two where the largeſt ſhips may anchor. All kinds of vegetables and uſeful trees are very abundant here, and ſome of the laſt grow to a prodigious ſize; there are beſides whole thickets of ſaſſafras of a ſuperior quality, as well as of thoſe trees which afford the true gum-copal. According to the Dutch, who ought to be good judges in this matter, the Iſle of Tobago produces likewiſe the true nutmeg and cinnamon trees; but experience has ſhewn that both one and the other were only of a baſtard and inferior kind: all theſe woods are full of game, and particularly

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larly wild hogs. Add to theſe, that Tobago is not expoſed to thoſe terrible hurricanes which cauſe ſuch great ravages elſewhere; perhaps the being ſo near the continent procures this ineſtimable advantage.

The ſoil, ſometimes ſandy, is always black, deep, and as fruitful as in any other of the Caribbees: it is an aſtoniſhing thing to ſee the activity and ſucceſs with which the culture of Tobago has ariſen and increaſed ſince the peace. The whole iſland, compriſed in ſeven diviſions, contains only 52,058 acres; they reckon at preſent 286 plantations, and among them above 40 for ſugar, of which the iſland exports already near 3000 hogſheads, ſome experienced obſervers aſſure us that it will afford 30,000 (hogſheads), every year. On the Southern ſide, in Rockly diviſion, is the riſing town of Scarborough, the capital of the iſland. Near the coaſt, and principally towards the South, are ſcattered ſome families of Caribbs, the remainder of the ancient inhabitants; theſe Indians are a quiet people, without malice, and incapable of giving the leaſt umbrage to the colony; their right to all kind of protection ariſes as well from their weakneſs and pacific diſpoſition, as from the inconteſtable title they have to their fields.

To the leeward of Tobago, going towards the N. W. is the iſland of GRENADA, about nine leagues long, and four broad; a chain of mountains, ſome very high, croſſes it from North to South; the reſt of the iſland is formed of plains and hillocks, either cultivated or capable of culture, and cut through by a great number of ſtreams, ſeveral of which deſerve the name of rivers; the largeſt plains and the beſt cultivated are on the Eaſt ſide: there are alſo in the iſland ſeveral mineral ſprings, and ſome ſalt ponds, with two lakes of ſome extent. The climate is undoubtedly very hot, but beſides the advantage, which it has in common with the other little iſlands, to be cooled by the ſea-breezes, we find ſome others peculiar to this iſland: the ſeaſonings, as they are called in the Weſt-Indies, are here much more regular than in the other iſles; the blaſt is not ſo frequent, and as yet they have never felt a hurricane any more than at Tobago. Its ſoil is of different kinds, but moſtly a rich and deep black mold which is very fertile. The iſland has ſome large foreſts whoſe trees of different kinds produce excellent timber. As to vegetables, fruits, animals, ſea or river fiſh, it does not yield to any of the Antilles; and one may ſay the ſame thing with truth of thoſe of its productions which enter into commerce, as ſugar, coffee, cacao, cotton, and tobacco, each of which in their kind are put amongſt thoſe of the firſt quality.

All theſe advantages, ineſtimable in themſelves, are made more precious by the two excellent harbours which Nature has formed at Grenada, that of Calvini or Calivenie at the S. E. extremity, and the harbour of Fort Royal at the S. W. end. This laſt has always paſſed for one of the beſt of the Weſt-Indies, and 25 ſhips of the line might ride there at anchor with eaſe and in perfect ſafety: it takes its name from Fort Royal, the chief place of the iſle, and the ſeat of its government, which has retained the French diviſion of the iſland into ſeven quarters or pariſhes.

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Between the Northern extremity of Grenada and the Southern point of the iſland of St. Vincent, about the 18th degree of latitude, is a range of ſmall iſlands and rocks, dependant on Grenada, and known by the name of GRENADILLES or GRENADINES; this Archipelago, whoſe length is about 14 leagues, contains 23 iſlands fit to produce cotton, coffee, indigo, and even ſugar. The air is very healthy, but there are no running ſprings of freſh water.

The moſt conſiderable at the North end of the chain is not above two leagues from St. Vincent; its Indian name is BECOUYA or BEQUIA; the French have called it "Little Martinico:" it is three leagues long and two broad. The land is flat, covered with fine trees; the climate and ſoil are equally excellent, and it has beſides a ſure and ſpacious harbour on the North, that was of great uſe to the French privateers during the laſt war. The ſmall iſlands of MOSKITOS and CANNAOUAN, FRIGATE ISLAND, and UNION ISLAND, are between Becouya and CARIUACOU. This laſt, the ſecond of the Grenadilles in ſize, is four leagues from Grenada, and was the only one the French had cultivated; they were drawn thither by its harbour, which is as ſafe, large, and convenient, as any other in this part of the world. Cariuacou produces a great quantity of cotton. The GRISON and the DIAMOND or ROUND ISLAND, are the two principal ones among thoſe which fill up the interval between Cariuacou and Grenada.

Grenada, with its dependencies, is the only colony in the Weſt-Indies, that the Engliſh have conquered beſides Jamaica. At Jamaica, almoſt uninhabited, all the Spaniards abandoned their ſettlements. At Grenada, which was thoroughly peopled, only half the French have renounced the Engliſh government. The treaty of peace gave them for a certain time the liberty to ſell their eſtates, provided it was to Britiſh ſubjects, and to retire from the iſland; in the firſt enthuſiaſm of an acquiſition, the higheſt idea of which had been formed, every one flew there to ſearch for habitations, and to purchaſe them at a price much above their real value: this immoderate whim has cauſed many of the ancient inhabitants to leave the iſland, who would otherwiſe have remained there, and has coſt the mother country a million and a half ſterling.

As long as conquered Grenada was under a military government; the greateſt harmony ſubſiſted between the Engliſh and French; there were no diſſentions until the civil government was eſtabliſhed: then they denied the French not only the privilege of being elected members of the Aſſembly, but even the right of voting at the election of the members. It was very ſingular in theſe Sugar-Iſlands, where religion ſeems to be the leaſt thought of the inhabitants, to make uſe of its name to oppreſs the conquered people. This abſurd vexation would have diſhonoured the nation, if the Government had followed the ideas of theſe perſecutors; on the contrary, it has decreed that two French ſubjects may have a ſeat in the Council, and three in the Aſſembly, without being obliged to ſubſcribe to the teſt; a deciſion which does as much honour to the policy as to the philanthropy of the miniſters, and has

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reſtored quietneſs to the iſland. The plantations have taken again their common courſe, and one does not doubt now of their progreſs, eſpecially in the Grenadilles, which the French had ſo much neglected. Since the conqueſt all the old plantations of Grenada are much better both in culture and in product; it is even ſuppoſed their number is increaſed a third. There ſtill remains a third of the iſland which is not cultivated, and though a great part of this ſpace is taken up by mountains incapable of being dug or plowed, we find ſeveral places which induſtry and labour might make fit to produce ſomething; however, the whole exports of Grenada amounted, in 1770, to more than 506,000l. ſterling.

About two leagues to the North of the chain of the Grenadines, as we have already obſerved, is the iſland of ST. VINCENT, one of thoſe which were called Neutral, and whoſe poſſeſſion, aſſured by the laſt peace, is ſhared by us with the Caribbs. It is more than four leagues long, and above two and $\frac{1}{2}$ at the greateſt breadth; the ſurface contains 84,286 acres. Out of the ridge of mountains, which croſſes it from South to North, riſe a great number of rivers full of fiſh, among which are found 22 capable of turning ſugar-mills: theſe mountains are in general of an eaſy aſcent; the vallies and plains, ſome of them of a large extent, are extremely fertile, and the clearing of the ground continually improves the climate. The iſland of St. Vincent is more favourable than any other for the culture of ſugar, coffee, cacao, and anatta. The part belonging to the Engliſh is divided into four pariſhes, the chief place of which is Kingſtown, upon a bay of the ſame name at the S. W. end; it is the reſidence of the Governor, and the place where the Aſſembly meet. About a league from Kingſtown towards the S. E. is the town of Calliagua, whoſe harbour, being the beſt in the iſland, muſt inſenſibly draw there all its trade and principal inhabitants.

For a great while after the diſcovery of the Europeans, this iſland was the general rendezvous of the Caribbs, who formerly poſſeſſed all the Antilles; and it now is the only one where their ſmall remains, hardly amounting to more than 80, may be ſaid to form a nation. They have been almoſt entirely exterminated by the Black Caribbs, the deſcendants of ſome Negroe ſlaves who eſcaped from a veſſel that was ſhipwrecked at St. Vincent: the number of theſe, which was ſoon increaſed by fugitive ſlaves from Barbadoes and elſewhere, amounts at preſent to 2000; they were at firſt ſo troubleſome, that the natives, or Red Caribbs, who had ſaved the lives of their fathers, implored the help of the French to drive them out of the iſland, which theſe allies not being able to accompliſh, they tried at laſt to reconcile the two nations, and lived in peace with both. Notwithſtanding the neutrality that hindered the French from ſettling at St. Vincent, they made there ſeveral plantations, whoſe culture conſiſted principally of coffee: before the ceſſion they exported three million weight of that commodity, and at the ſame time their number was above 800, who had 3000 Negroes between them. At the peace the Government ſold the lands of St. Vincent, as it had thoſe of Tobago, and left to the French, whom the fear of confiſcation had not

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driven away, thoſe which they poſſeſſed, paying a moderate fine and a yearly rent ſtill more moderate. Theſe operations, which unavoidably influenced upon the poſſeſſions of the Caribbs, made them riſe up; ſome troops were ſent who had ſeveral ſkirmiſhes with their warriors; and the conſequence ſoon was a treaty of peace, concluded in 1773, which aſſigns to them all the Northern part, making about a third of the iſland, together with two little diſtricts towards the South-Eaſt point. Since this time St. Vincent has enjoyed a happy tranquility, and the ſettlers may, without any alarm, ſet themſelves to the labours which Nature and the fruitfulneſs of the land can ſuggeſt. Their exportations, which produced 110,000l. ſterling in 1770, are very conſiderably increaſed ſince; in this ſum we muſt obſerve that coffee, reduced to about 500,000 pounds weight, does not make an article of 16,000l. ſterling. The iſland of St. Vincent is the only one of the Antilles, where the public ſpirit has eſtabliſhed a garden, that might be called an experimental garden; they cultivate there all the plants which a ſimilarity of climate and the induſtry of the planter may with any likelihood naturalize in the Weſt-Indies, ſuch as cinnamon, Eaſt-India mango, ſeſamum or oily grain, vanilla, China tallow-tree, camphire-tree, gum-ſtorax-tree, the tree-ſhrub, &c.

Twenty leagues from St. Vincent, and out of the chain of the Caribbees, is BARBADOES, one of the moſt ancient Engliſh ſettlements in the Weſt-Indies. When they fixed themſelves there, in 1627, the iſland did not ſeem to have been at any time inhabited even by Caribbs. The Spaniards called it "Iſla de los Barbudos," "the Iſland of Bearded People," from a kind of fig-tree on whoſe ſides there hang long filaments which to the eyes of ſailors looked like a man with a long beard. This iſland is of a triangular form, the length from North to South about five leagues and a half, the greateſt breadth four, the circuit fifteen; and the ſurface contains 106,470 acres. Nature has almoſt entirely ſurrounded it with rocks, and where theſe are wanting, they have built forts, which, in ſome ſort, make this iſland inacceſſible. The face of the country, generally level, is agreeably diverſified by little plains, eminences of an eaſy aſcent, and ſome rows of hills; which, with the lofty trees, the ſpacious buildings, and a continual verdure, yield the moſt agreeable proſpect. The climate is very hot, but the air very pure; and though it does not generate any land-wind, the heat is moderated by the conſtant trade-winds which come to it over the immenſe extent of the Atlantic Ocean. If it is true, as is aſſerted, that the cutting down its woods has been prejudicial in diminiſhing the quantity of rain, this diſadvantage is made up by the ſalubrity it has diffuſed through the whole country in giving a free paſſage to the air. Like moſt of the other iſlands, Barbadoes is ſubject in the ſummer months to tornadoes and hurricanes, that are ſo much more dangerous to the ſhipping as they have no harbour to get into for ſafety, but only ſome bays where they can ride at anchor.

If we conſider the whole of Barbadoes, its ſituation, its level ſurface, the compoſition of its maſs, we ſhall be led to think that this iſland, out of the common chain, has

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has not been formed, like the other Caribbees, by the impetuous irruption of the ſea we mentioned in the firſt part; one would rather take it for a bank which was raiſed all at once out of the water in the general convulſion; and the plenty of corals and other marine productions, which are found every where at a very ſmall depth, ſeems to favour this hypotheſis: the ſoil that covers them is very various, in ſome places it is a heavy clay, in others a light ſand; a heavy black mould in ſome, a light red earth in others; we find likewiſe ſome wet and ſwampy grounds, and ſome places which have a hard gravel. In general one may ſay that the lands of Barbadoes are worn out; but, by a continual uſe of manures which are abſolutely neceſſary, almoſt all the parts produce plentiful harveſts of ſugar; the principal manure is ſea-wreck, which the tide throws on the ſhore. The whole iſland appears a continual plantation, where the houſes are ſo numerous that they ſeem to touch. They gather a prodigious variety of vegetable productions, of maize, of Guinea corn, and a quantity of eatable roots. As to animals, the iſland has ſome large cattle and ſheep of its own raiſing, as well as a ſmall number of horſes, but many of theſe are imported from England and the Continent of America, the firſt for the ſaddle, the laſt principally for labour. The firſt planters raiſed tobacco, and ſoon left it off for ſugar-canes, which they had originally from Fernambuco in Brazil. As their iſland increaſed in culture, in people and riches, the conſtitution, excellent in itſelf, acquired alſo more vigour, and a ſtrict adherence to its principles produced that ſtability and ſurety which gave Barbadoes the firſt rank among the beſt regulated colonies. Although it is much fallen off from the ſplendor celebrated at the end of the laſt century, when it contained above 100,000 inhabitants, it is ſtill one of the moſt valuable of our ſettlements in the Weſt-Indies.

Barbadoes owes all theſe political advantages to Philip Bell, who was appointed Governor by the Earl of Carliſle, to whom a royal patent granted the iſland in 1627. This patent being recalled after the Reſtoration, the poſſeſſion of Barbadoes returned to the crown. Its government was ſo well conſtituted, that it has ſubſiſted entire ſince this æra, and ſerved in ſome degree for a model for that of the other iſlands. The Governor is appointed by a commiſſion from the King, as well as his council of twelve by a mandamus; the Aſſembly is formed of twenty-two repreſentatives, that is, two members for each of the eleven pariſhes that are in the iſland. The iſland is, beſides, divided into five diſtricts, in each of which is a judge and five aſſiſtants, who hold a court of common pleas every month from January to September. There is a law, whoſe utility is equal to its prudence, which aſſigns to every ſervant, at the expiration of his time, a little eſtate of three, four, or five acres; it is what conſtitutes a yeomanry. This agrarian law has increaſed the inhabitants of Barbadoes in a proportion almoſt unknown in the other iſlands, and has always rendered its militia one of the moſt reſpectable in the Weſt-Indies. Some calculations make the whole number of inhabitants amount to 94,000, among whom are reckoned 22,000 Whites; this gives their proportion to that of the Negroes as one to four

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nearly: others reduce the total number to 75,000 perſons, of whom 20,000 are Whites. They have at preſent ſix regiments of infantry, three of cavalry, and one troop of guards, all ſtout men, and well diſciplined.

The capital of the iſland is Bridge-town, at the S. W. point, on the bay of Carliſle, which is much the beſt in the iſle, although the bottom is foul and apt to cut the cables. This town, which is at preſent rebuilding, before it was deſtroyed by fire contained 1500 good houſes. It has a college founded and liberally endowed by Colonel Codrington, the only inſtitution of the kind in the Weſt-Indies; but it does not appear that the deſign of the founder has had the ſucceſs that was expected. Beſides this town there are ſome others, viz. Oiſtin's-town, Hole-town, and Speight's-town, formerly called Little Briſtol. The trade of Barbadoes with Great Britain, North America, and Africa, is ſo conſiderable, that, according to ſeveral accounts, it employs 400 veſſels of all burdens. The principal articles of exportation are aloes, cotton, ginger, ſugar, rum, and molaſſes. In 1770, this exportation amounted to 311,000l. to Great Britain, 120,000l. to North America, and 1100l. to the other iſlands, the whole being above 432,000l. ſterling.

The iſlands we have juſt deſcribed form among the Caribbees an Archipelago poſſeſſed wholly by the Engliſh, without the interruption of the ſettlements of any other nation: but to the North of Barbadoes begin the French iſlands, in the middle of which we find DOMINICA, the third of the Neutral Iſles, which fell into the poſſeſſion of the Engliſh at the laſt peace.

Dominica, between Martinico and Guadalope, was diſcovered by Columbus, the 3d of November, 1493, and called after the Sunday which happened on that day. Its length is eight leagues and $\frac{1}{2}$; its greateſt breadth in the middle about four. It is certainly one of the beſt iſlands in the Weſt-Indies, and, after Jamaica, the moſt important, perhaps, of thoſe belonging to England. Its appearance is rugged and mountainous, eſpecially towards the ſea; but the aſcents are commonly eaſy, which makes their cultivation leſs difficult, and the inner part contains very rich vallies with ſeveral fine plains. The ſoil, in general, is a black deep mold, extremely fertile, which ſoon repays abundantly the labours of the planter. The iſland, watered by a great number of rivers full of fiſh, and favourable to the plantations, has ſeveral that are navigable for ſome miles diſtance from the ſea. The climate is remarkably hot even for this part of the world, though the air is pure and very thin, which circumſtance has given the country the reputation of being healthy. Among the mountains we find one where the French imagine there is a gold mine, and two others towards the South, which are called "Souffrieres," from the plenty of ſulphur they contain; theſe ſeem to be volcanos either juſt riſing or ready to be extinguiſhed. There are beſides ſeveral ſprings of mineral waters, whoſe virtues are extolled for ſeveral diſorders.

One of the great advantages of Dominica ariſes from the variety of the aſpects of its excellent ſoil, which is ſuch that one may cultivate with eaſe and certainty, not

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only

only all the productions growing in the other islands, but likewise the greater part of the plants and trees of the West-India Continent. At present its forests afford an inexhaustible fund of timber of all sorts and for all uses; among them we find a great quantity of rose-wood, so esteemed by the cabinet-makers. The island abundantly produces what is called in these parts ground-provisions, such as bananas, potatoes, and manioc from which the cassada bread is made, which serves for food to the Negroes, and even to a great number of Europeans. All kinds of vegetables grow there in profusion, and among the number of its rich fruits are distinguished the ananas, which passes for the most delicious in the islands. It abounds in hogs, both tame and wild, in game and fowls; these articles, with other provisions, before the cession, made the principal trade of its inhabitants with Martinico.

The island, properly speaking, has no harbours, but there is safe and convenient anchorage in the bays and coves, which indent the whole coast; the principal of these, deep, capacious, and sandy, lies on the North-West, and is named after Prince Rupert who formerly anchored there with his fleet. The surrounding mountains shelter it from most winds, and it becomes so much the more important to Great Britain, as Dominica being situated in the middle of the French Islands, a fleet lying in Prince Rupert's Bay could easily interrupt all their trade: on this bay, between the shore and its salt-works, has been traced out the plan of a new town, which is to be called Portsmouth. Dominica is divided into 10 parishes, seven to leeward, and three to windward. On the leeward coast is the Capital, composed of two small towns, one to the North called Le Roseau, and the other to the South called Charlotte-Town. The Caribbs, formerly very numerous in this island, are now reduced to a few families, settled in a little district towards the North-East.

The description of the English Caribbees, properly so called, terminating at Dominica, we meet with, farther to the North, the Archipelago known by the name of the LEEWARD CARIBBEES, of which ANTIGUA is the most considerable; it has been written sometimes "Antego" and "Antegoa," but the proper spelling is Antigua, after St. Maria la Antigua, a famous church of Seville, whose name Columbus gave this island. It is above three leagues in its greatest length, and about four broad; the circuit being near 22, and the surface reckoned at 108 square miles, equivalent to 69,277 acres. In general the climate is hotter, less healthy, and the hurricanes more frequent than at Barbadoes. The country is agreeably diversified by high and low grounds, but there is none so high as to deserve the name of mountains, although this name is given to the hills of Shekerly towards the South-West point; so that the island has no rivers: we find only some springs mostly brackish, and some little brooks almost always dry. The inhabitants, being deprived of river-water, collect the rain in cisterns and ponds, as well for their own use as for their cattle; it is remarked that this water is very light, extremely pure, and very wholesome. This want of water has a long time retarded the settling of Antigua, begun

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begun by Sir Thomas Warner nearly at the ſame time as that of Barbadoes. The planters had hardly begun to gather the fruits of their induſtry, when they were attacked and reduced by the French; the treaty of Breda put them again under the Engliſh dominion, which they have enjoyed ever ſince, to the great advantage of their poſſeſſions. The ſoil is much varied, but in many places it is a fine black mold, in others a clay, pretty ſtiff, and yet fertile. This iſland is as well provided as any other with animals of all kinds, fowls both domeſtic and wild, and ſea-fiſh of an acknowledged excellence; the roots, vegetables, and all the fruits common to the Weſt-Indies, are found here in plenty. They formerly cultivated Indigo and tobacco, but it is a long while ſince theſe productions have given place to cotton and ſugar-canes, which are at preſent the chief ones of the iſland.

The Capital of Antigua is St. John, a regular-built town on the Weſt ſhore, with a good harbour of the ſame name, whoſe entrance is defended by Fort James. It is the reſidence of the Governor General of the Caribbee Leeward Iſlands, the place where the Aſſembly for this iſland is held, and the port where the greateſt trade is carried on. It was once very flouriſhing, and we may form ſome judgment of its opulence from the loſs occaſioned by the laſt fire, which was computed at 400,000l. ſterling. The beſt port in the iſland is Engliſh Harbour on the South ſide; with much trouble and expence it has been made fit to receive the greateſt ſhips of war, who find there a dock-yard with ſtores and all the materials and conveniencies neceſſary to repair and careen. Engliſh Harbour is at a ſmall diſtance from the town and harbour of Falmouth; there are, beſides, Willoughby Bay to the windward of Engliſh Harbour, Nonſuch Harbour on the Eaſt point, and the town and harbour of Parham on the North Side, without ſpeaking of a great number of creeks and ſmaller bays: but, in general, the ſhore being rocky, wherever the landing would be practicable it is defended by forts and batteries; and there is commonly one regiment of regular troops quartered there for the defence of the iſland.

The Governor-General, when he thinks proper, calls a General Aſſembly of the repreſentatives of the other iſlands. Antigua has, beſides, a Lieutenant-Governor, a Council, and its own Aſſembly compoſed of 24 members. It is divided into ſix pariſhes and 11 diſtricts, of which 10 ſend each two repreſentatives, and that of St. John four. The number of veſſels which enter yearly in this harbour is reckoned at 300, but we have very uncertain accounts in regard to that of the inhabitants of the iſland. As for their exports, in which the hurricanes and dry ſeaſons make very great inequalities, we know that in 1770 they amounted to 446,000l. ſterling, as well to Great Britain and Ireland as to America; in this ſum there is only 500l. for cotton, all the reſt is the produce of ſugar, molaſſes, and rum.

About 15 leagues to the Weſt of Antigua is the iſland of ST. CHRISTOPHER, commonly called ST. KITT's, which* has given birth to all the Engliſh and French colonies in the Weſt-Indies. The two nations arrived there the ſame day, in 1625; they divided the iſland between them, agreeing, however, that hunting,

* This is a mistake. Barbadoes was prior to it in English settlement, if not in British occupancy.

Barbadoes was first colonized by Sir Wm Courteen anno 1624.

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ing, fiſhing, the mines and foreſts, ſhould be in common. Three years after their ſettling, the Spaniards drove them away; they ſoon returned and continued to live in good underſtanding until 1666, when war being declared between England and France, St. Chriſtopher's became at different intervals the theatre of bloodſhed for half a century. The weakeſt, obliged to evacuate the colony, ſoon returned with a force ſufficient to avenge its loſſes; this alternative, ſo long balanced with ſucceſs and diſgrace, ended with the expulſion of the French in 1702, and the treaty of Utrecht, aſſuring this iſland to the Engliſh, took away from their competitors all hopes of return.

The iſland, taken in the whole, is 13 or 14 leagues in circuit, the length about five, and the breadth a league and a half, except towards the South, where it is narrowed into an iſthmus which joins it to a head-land about a league long and half a league broad; it contains 68 ſquare miles. The center of the iſland is taken up by a great number of high and barren mountains, interſected by rocky precipices almoſt impaſſable, and in many of which iſſue hot ſprings. Mount Miſery, which ſeems to be a decayed volcano, whoſe head is hid in the clouds, is the higheſt of all theſe mountains, its perpendicular height being 3711 feet; at a certain diſtance it bears ſome reſemblance to a man who carries another on his back, and this appearance, true or falſe, engaged Chriſtopher Columbus to give the iſland the name of St. Chriſtopher's, in memory of the legendary tale which ſuppoſes this ſaint to have carried the child Jeſus on his ſhoulders over a great river, or even an arm of the ſea. The aſſemblage of theſe mountains makes St. Kitt's appear, to thoſe who approach by ſea, like one huge mountain covered with wood, but they find, as they come nearer, that the coaſt grows eaſier, as well as the aſcent of the mountains, which, riſing one above another, are cultivated as high as poſſible. The climate is hot, tho' from the height of the country much leſs than ought to be expected, the air pure and healthy, but unluckily the iſland is ſubject to frequent ſtorms, hurricanes, and earthquakes.

The ſoil in general is light and ſandy, but very fruitful, and well watered by ſeveral rivulets which run down both ſides of the mountains; it produces plenty of manioc, a quantity of eatable roots, vegetables, fruits, &c. We find here alſo ſome excellent timber. The whole iſland is covered with plantations, well managed, whoſe owners, noted for the ſoftneſs of their manners, live in agreeable, clean, and convenient habitations, adorned with fountains and groves: moſt of their houſes are built of cedar, and the lands hedged with orange and lemon trees. The whole of their plantations take up 44,000 acres; it is aſſerted that only 24,000 are fit for canes, but their ſugar paſſes for the beſt in the iſlands.

They have two principal towns in the iſland, the moſt conſiderable is Baſſeterre, formerly the Capital of the French part. The other is called Sandy Point, and always belonged to the Engliſh. There is no harbour, nor any thing that has the appearance of any; on the contrary, the ſurf is continually beating on the ſandy ſhore

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at the few places fit to land, which not only prevents the building any key or wharf, but renders the landing or ſhipping of goods always inconvenient and very often dangerous; they have been, therefore, obliged to adopt a particular method to embark or put the heavy goods, ſuch as hogſheads of ſugar or rum, on board. For this purpoſe they uſe a ſmall boat of a peculiar conſtruction called a "Moſes;" this boat ſets off from the ſhip with ſome very active and expert rowers; when they ſee what they call a "Lull," that is, an abatement in the violence of the ſurge, they puſh to land, and lay the ſides of the Moſes on the ſtrand; the hogſhead is rolled into it, and the ſame precautions are uſed to carry it to the ſhip: it is in this inconvenient and very hazardous manner that the ſugars are conveyed on board by ſingle hogſheads. Rum, cotton, and other goods that will bear the water, are generally floated to the ſhip both in going and coming. They make uſe of the ſame expedient in the iſlands of Monſerrat and Nevis, and for the ſame reaſon.

The public affairs at St. Chriſtopher's are adminiſtered by a Governor, a Council, and an Aſſembly choſen from the nine pariſhes into which the iſland is divided, and which have each a large handſome church.

Calculators differ very much in their accounts of the population of St. Chriſtopher's; ſome make the whole number of its inhabitants only amount to 7000 Whites, and 20,000 Blacks; others make them 10,000 Whites, and 30,000 Blacks; what appears certain, is, that it is one of the iſlands belonging to the Engliſh where there is the leaſt diſproportion between the number of maſters and ſlaves. In 1770, the exportations of this iſland amounted to above 419,000l. ſterling for ſugar, molaſſes, and rum, and near 8000l. for cotton.

To the South of St. Chriſtopher's is the little iſland of NEVIS (a name corrupted from the Spaniſh "Nieves"), ſeparated from it by a narrow ſtraight about three quarters of a league broad: it is only a vaſt mountain riſing to a very great height, and whoſe foot is cultivated all round, as well as a part of the declivity; all the reſt is covered with fine trees. The iſland is about two leagues long, and one broad. At the foot of the mountain the ſoil, very fine and fruitful, takes up in ſome places near half a league in breadth; it decreaſes in goodneſs, as well as extent, as one approaches the top. Nevis was formerly more flouriſhing than at preſent; and, before the Revolution, contained 30,000 inhabitants; the invaſion of the French about that time, and ſome epidemical diſorders, have ſtrangely diminiſhed the number, ſince they only reckon at preſent 2 or 3000 Whites, and 6 or 7000 Negroes. Their productions are the ſame as at St. Chriſtopher's, and they perhaps ſurpaſs thoſe of that iſle in activity and induſtry, as well as in the neatneſs of their houſes, for which they are diſtinguiſhed in the Weſt-Indies. They have three tolerable roads or bays on which are as many little towns, Newcaſtle, Littleborough on Moreton Bay, and Charleſtown, the Capital, with a fort called Great Fort that defends the anchoring-place, where the Governor, Council, and Aſſembly meet; the laſt is compoſed of five members for each of the three pariſhes into which the iſland is divided. The

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trade

trade of Nevis employs annually about 20 veſſels; their exportations to Great Britain, in 1770, in cotton and ſugar, amounted to near 44,000l. thoſe to North America, where they ſend a great deal of molaſſes, rum, and a prodigious quantity of lemons, exceed 14,000l.

At 10 leagues to the South-Eaſt of Nevis is the little iſland of MONSERRAT, ſo called by Chriſtopher Columbus from its reſemblance to a mountain of Catalonia, known by the name of our Lady of Monſerrat. It is more than three leagues long, and about two broad, and is ſuppoſed to contain 40 or 50,000 acres. It was ſettled in 1632 by Sir Thomas Warner, and taken in the beginning of the reign of Charles II. by the French, who reſtored it to England at the peace of Breda. The firſt ſettlers were Iriſhmen, and the preſent inhabitants are principally compoſed either of their deſcendants or of natives of Ireland, ſo that the uſe of the Iriſh language is preſerved in this iſland, even among the Negroes. According to the beſt accounts the number of inhabitants is about 14,000, among whom are 14 or 1500 Whites. Their government is compoſed of a Lieutenant-Governor, a Council, and an Aſſembly of eight repreſentatives, two for each of the four diſtricts which divide the iſland. The climate of Monſerrat is very hot; however, not ſo bad as at Antigua, and it paſſes for being very healthy. The land is mountainous, but the high grounds produce cedars and other fine trees, and the vallies, almoſt all well watered, are very fruitful; we find there, beſides, all the animals, vegetables, and fruits of the other iſlands, to which they do not yield either in quality or abundance. The ſettlers formerly made a good deal of indigo, but not very good, which they cut four times in a year; at preſent, their culture is confined to ſugar-canes and a little cotton, and by induſtry they have carried this culture as far as it could go; their exports, in 1770, amounted to 90,000l. to Great Britain and Ireland, and 12,000 to North America. One of the greateſt diſadvantages of Monſerrat is to have no harbour, only three roads at Plymouth, Old Harbour, and Ker's Bay, where, as we have already obſerved in ſpeaking of St. Chriſtopher's, the ſhipping and landing of goods is attended with many inconveniencies.

The iſlands in this diviſion which remain to be deſcribed are Redondo, Barbuda, Anguilla, and Sombrero. REDONDO, between Monſerrat and Nevis, is a rock about a league in circuit, of a round form, as its Spaniſh name imports, where there is neither culture nor inhabitants.

BARBUDA, nine leagues to the North of Antigua, is about two or three leagues long, and half a league broad. Soon after the ſettling of St. Kitt's and Nevis, the new planters conceived ſo advantageous an opinion of Barbuda that they reſolved to cultivate it; they ſent there ſome inhabitants, who, charmed with the mildneſs and fertility of its climate, called it "Dulcina;" this name laſted no longer than their colony; they ſoon perceived that the coaſts of Barbuda were full of rocks, that the iſland had little water, and its ſoil had no depth, which, joined to the frequent incurſions of the Caribbs, determined them to give up their ſettlement and.

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and to return to St. Chriſtopher's. Some years after General Codrington obtained the property of it by a grant from the crown; his project was to bring up proviſions there, and to cultivate cinnamon; the firſt part has ſucceeded admirably well, but the other has had no ſucceſs, notwithſtanding repeated trials and experiments.

Barbuda, the only proprietary government of the Weſt-Indies, produces about 4 or 5000l. a year to the deſcendant of the General. There are ſome hundred inhabitants, living very happily and much at their eaſe; they cultivate corn, and breed cattle, fowls, and other proviſions, which they always ſell to advantage in the neighbouring iſlands.

ANGUILLA, the third iſland, is 25 leagues to the North-Weſt of Barbuda, and 15 leagues to the North of St. Chriſtopher's. Its very long and narrow ſhape induced the Spaniards to give it the name of Anguilla, or "Eel." It is ſo low and flat that the French, who were there the firſt, did not think it worth cultivating or even keeping; we adopted the ſame opinion when we took poſſeſſion of it, and the iſland was a long time in our hands before we perceived the contrary. Within a few years, induſtry and the indefatigable labours of the planters of Anguilla have convinced us that their iſland produces not only all the neceſſaries of life, but, beſides, many proviſions which they ſell to their neighbours, as well as ſugar and cotton. The climate is very healthy, the inhabitants ſtrong and vigorous. Their exportations, which promiſe to become more conſiderable, amounted, in ſugar, rum, and cotton, in 1770, to near 6000l. 3800l. of which were for Great Britain, the reſt for North America.

To the North of Barbuda, and dependant on it, are ſeveral ſmall uninhabited iſlands; the moſt remarkable of them lies at ſix leagues diſtance, and is about a league long; it conſiſts of an eminence, to which the Spaniſh diſcoverers, finding ſome reſemblance to a hat, gave the name of SOMBRERO, which it has always preſerved.

To the Weſt of Barbuda and Sombrero, after having croſſed a channel of eight leagues, begins the Archipelago of THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, ſo called in memory of the 11,000 virgins of the Legend; theſe take up a ſpace, from Eaſt to Weſt, of about 24 leagues long, quite to the Eaſtern coaſt of Porto Rico, with a breadth of about 16 leagues. They are compoſed of a great number of iſles, whoſe coaſts, rent throughout and ſprinkled with rocks, every where dangerous to navigators, are famous for ſhipwrecks, and particularly of ſeveral galleons. Happily for the trade and navigation of theſe iſlands, Nature has placed in the middle of them a large baſon of three or four leagues broad, and ſix or ſeven long, the fineſt that can be imagined, and in which ſhips may anchor landlocked and ſheltered from all winds. The Buccaniers called it "the Virgins Gangway," but its true name is "the Bay of Sir Francis Drake," who firſt entered it in 1580, when he made his expedition againſt St. Domingo.

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The poſſeſſion of the Virgin Iſles is parted between the Engliſh and Danes, but the Spaniards claim all thoſe which are adjacent to Porto Rico. Theſe iſlands, as we have juſt obſerved, being very numerous, it will be, perhaps, better to give a general catalogue of them, before we enter into their deſcription reſpectively to the different poſſeſſors.

The Engliſh poſſeſs, 1ſt, VIRGIN GORDA, on which depend *Anegada*, *Nicker*, *Prickly-Pear*, and *Moſkito Iſlands*, *Cammanoes*, *Dog Iſlands*, *The Fallen City*, with the *Round Rock*, *Ginger*, *Coopers*, *Salt Iſland*, *Peter's Iſland*, and the *Dead Cheſt*; 2dly, TORTOLA, to which belong *Joſt Van Dykes*, and *Little Van Dykes*, *Guana Iſland*, with *Beef* and *Thatch Iſlands*. All theſe iſles within a few years have been put under a regular form of government.

The Danes poſſeſs, 1ſt, "St. Thomas," on which depend the iſlands of "Braſs," "Little Saba," "Buck Iſland," "Great and Little St. James," and the "Bird Keys;" 2dly, "St. John," to which belong "Lavango," "Cam Iſland," and "Witch Iſlands;" 3dly, "Santa Cruz," or "Sainte Croix."

The Spaniards claim "Serpents Iſland," which the Engliſh call *Green Iſland*, "The Tropic Keys," "Great and Little Paſſage Iſland," but eſpecially *Crab Iſland*. We ſhall obſerve on this laſt that it is beſides called "Bieque Iſland," and formerly bore the name of "Boriquen;" that it is only two leagues from Porto Rico, about ſix leagues long, and two broad. The Engliſh have ſettled there twice, and have been twice driven away by the Spaniards, whoſe intereſt it is for it to remain deſolate, as its ſoil is rich, and it has a tolerable good road on the South ſide.

The Tropic Keys, on the North of Crab Iſland, are ſo called from the aſtoniſhing quantity of Tropic birds which breed there. Theſe birds are about the ſize of a pigeon, but round and plump like a partridge, and very good to eat; their plumage is quite white, except two or three feathers in each wing of a clear grey; their beaks are ſhort, thick, and of a pale yellow; they have a long feather, or rather quill, about ſeven inches long, which comes out of their rump, and is all the tail they have; their name has been given them becauſe they are never ſeen but between the Tropics.

TORTOLA is the principal of the Engliſh iſlands, and that where almoſt all the trade is carried on; it is near five leagues long, and two broad, but badly watered, and has the name of being unhealthy; the cotton which they cultivate there is very much eſteemed by the manufacturers.

VIRGIN GORDA (that is, the Great Virgin), or "Peniſton," and, by a corruption generally adopted, "Spaniſh Town," lies four leagues to the Eaſt of Tortola, of a very irregular figure, whoſe greateſt length from Weſt to Eaſt is about ſix leagues, ſtill worſe watered than Tortola, and having fewer inhabitants; it is aſſerted, that the mountain which riſes in its center contains a ſilver mine. To the North of Virgin Gorda is ANEGADA, or the "Drowned Iſle," about as big as the firſt: this iſland is very low, and almoſt intirely covered by the ſea at the higheſt tides. As

it projects out of the cluster of the Virgins, the rocks and shoals which surround it become so much more dangerous to ships in the offing. The Buccaniers have given the name of "Treasure Point" to a promontory on the South side, that has often been dug to discover the gold and silver which they supposed the Spaniards had buried there after the shipwreck of one of their galleons. The other Virgin Isles, though for the most part inhabited, are too inconsiderable to deserve a description; they were considered a long time as inhospitable rocks, where some wretches, driven out of the other islands by their bad fortune, lived poor and free, with much pain and labour: industry, patience, and culture, have at last got the better; and, at present, the inhabitants of the English Virgin Isles amount to 1000 or 1200 Whites, and more than 10,000 Negroes. The exportations of Tortola, with the other islands, to Great Britain and North America, in sugar, rum, cotton, and some skins which they bring from Porto Rico, produced, in 1770, near 72,000l. we must observe that in this sum the exports of the other isles were only 2000l. and that cotton alone formed an object of 16 or 17,000l.

The last division of the islands under the English dominion comprehends the ISLES of BAHAMA, called by the Spaniards LUCAYOS, taking in, under this denomination, all the islands in general which are to the North of Cuba and St. Domingo. The first discovery of the New World begun at Guanahani, one of them; they were then full of people, and the inhabitants, simple and mild, lived happy in the midst of plenty. As they produced no gold, the Spaniards made no settlement there, but they soon transported their inhabitants to the mines of St. Domingo, which they had almost depopulated; and, at the end of 14 years, there did not remain a single man in the Lucayos. Then, whoever chose it, might occupy what island he pleased, and the English came there. Charles II. granted all the Bahama Isles to the proprietors of Carolina, who still claim them; they sent several Governors, and built the town of Nassau, which is now the seat of the Government, in the island of PROVIDENCE. This last island, then called "Abacoa," received afterwards the name of Providence from an Englishman, who had been twice shipwrecked on its coasts. The English were at different times driven out by the French and Spaniards, and, at last, entirely deserted their settlement in 1708. After the peace of Utrecht, several American privateers having become pirates, took refuge in the harbour of Providence, which was still abandoned; they fortified it, and built themselves a village of huts round it. England sent them a Governor in 1718, with a pardon; they left off their pirating, and soon became a regulated colony. Their descendants at present occupy these islands, the possession of which has never been contested to Great Britain.

The number of the Bahama Isles is very considerable, and amounts to many hundreds, which, as we have just observed, hardly emerge out of an immense sand-bank, but, excepting 12 or 15, are all, in general, very long and narrow; the others, for the most

moſt part, are only ſmall rocks, or little ſpots of ſand, even with the water's edge. The principal, which has given its name to the whole Archipelago, is GREAT BAHAMA, in the Northern bank called "the Little Bank of Bahama," at about 20 leagues from the coaſt of Florida: its curved ſhape lengthens to 28 leagues, and has two or three, and ſometimes more, in breadth. At a little diſtance to the Eaſt is the iſland LUCAYONEQUE, as long and as narrow; and to the North of both is that LUCAYO which has only half their dimenſions, but whoſe name has been given to the whole range.

A channel of 8 or 10 leagues ſeparates the Little Bank from the "Great Bank of Bahama;" in this is Providence, with the great iſland of ALABASTER or ELEUTHERA, which has HARBOUR ISLAND on the North Cape. The Iſles of ANDROS are to the South-Weſt of Providence; theſe, which the Spaniards call "Yſlas del Eſpiritu Santo," take up a ſpace of 30 leagues long, and four or five broad, interſected by a number of very narrow paſſages. In deſcending towards the South-Eaſt, we meet with STOCKING, EXUMA, and YUMA or LONG Iſland. The iſle of GUANAHANI, to which Columbus gave the name of "St. Salvador," on the 11th of October, 1492, is now called CAT-ISLAND, and lies in a particular bank to the Eaſt of the Great Bank, from which it is parted by a narrow channel, called "Exuma Sound."

The climate of the Bahama Iſles is very temperate, the land in general fruitful, and the air very healthy. Their great diſadvantage is the want of water, as well as their ſituation amongſt innumerable ſhoals and rocks, in a tempeſtuous ſea full of currents, that renders them inacceſſible to great ſhips. There are only three which have inhabitants, PROVIDENCE, ELEUTHERA, called for ſhortneſs "Euthera," and HARBOUR ISLAND appearing like a point in compariſon with the two others. The people of Providence make ſalt, cut Braziletto wood, and gather maize or peaſe; their ſoil is hard, dry, and ſtony; it, however, appears capable of producing cotton, and this culture has been attempted with a good proſpect of ſucceſs; beſides, there grow a great plenty of limes, which form their moſt conſiderable article of exportation to North America: the principal harbour of this iſland has a bar with only 16 feet of water. The ſoil of Eleuthera and Harbour Iſland is better than that of Providence, and produces the greater part of the pine-apples which are exported likewiſe to America. The climate of Eleuthera is ſo healthy, that it is not uncommon to ſee perſons there above 100 years old. Exuma, ſtill uninhabited, is certainly the beſt of all theſe iſlands, not only for the fertility of the ground, but likewiſe for the excellence of its anchoring-place in Exuma Sound, where the whole Britiſh navy could eaſily ride. The only ſugar plantation which has been attempted there, was abandoned at the beginning of the laſt war.

The inhabitants of the Bahama Iſles, moſtly deſcended from pirates brought to order and obedience, ſeem to retain ſome of the habits of their anceſtors. In time of war their favourite employment is privateering, in which, it is aſſerted, that they

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are

are not over ſcrupulous on the neutrality of the ſhips they meet with. In time of peace many follow the wrecking buſineſs; their little veſſels go to ſearch for the remains of ſhips wrecked on the rocks and ſhoals of Florida, or on thoſe which ſurround their own iſlands; they have been even accuſed of not wanting ways to procure ſhipwrecks when they find an occaſion: but the greater number, more honeſtly induſtrious, employ themſelves in fiſhing on their banks for green turtle, moſt of which at preſent are brought to London; they likewiſe after great tempeſts gather ambergris. Their iſlands furniſh dyeing woods, particularly a kind of red wood very uſeful, lignum vitæ, and an inferior ſort of mahogany, which alſo grows on the Keys of Florida, and with which they make their principal returns to England. Their exports, in 1769, amounted to 60001. in 1770, there were entered inwards 81 ſloops or ſhips, and cleared outwards 84.

The ſpace contained between Long Iſland, the moſt Eaſterly of the Great Bank of Bahama, and the extremity of St. Domingo, is ſprinkled with uninhabited iſlands, ſome ſingle, others cluſtered in particular banks. The Engliſh claim principally CROOKED ISLAND, and all thoſe which are in the bank to which its name is given, at the going out of the Windward Paſſage; they are alſo in poſſeſſion of TURK'S ISLANDS, ſituated at 60 leagues to the South-Eaſt of Crooked Iſland; and at 35 leagues towards the North-Eaſt of Cape Francois, the capital of St. Domingo, in the middle of a bank about 10 leagues long, there are three principal ones, low, ſmall, and barren, where the Bermudians come to make, or, according to their expreſſion, to rake ſalt. The ſhips which ſail from St. Domingo to Europe paſſing very often in ſight of Turk's Iſlands, the French, ſoon after the laſt peace, erected a light-houſe on one of them for the uſe of their navigation, which they were obliged to demoliſh as ſoon almoſt as it was built.

Of the French *Iſlands.*

SINCE the French have given up Louiſiana to the Spaniards, they have no longer any ſettlement on the Continent of the Weſt-Indies, and their poſſeſſions are reduced to the Weſt part of the Iſland of ST. DOMINGO, the Iſland of GUADALOUPE with the adjacent iſles, the Iſland of MARTINICO, and the Iſland of ST. LUCIA, territories ſo conſiderable and intereſting, that they would have each a right to a particular ſection, if, in this abridgement, we could dilate in proportion to their importance.

In ſpeaking before of St. Domingo, we have only given a ſketch of this iſland proportionable to the inactivity and want of induſtry of its Spaniſh poſſeſſors, who leave all the part they occupy untilled; it ſeemed more proper to reſerve the details to the article deſigned for its active and laborious poſſeſſors.

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The diſcovery of St. Domingo, the conqueſt, the depopulation, are already known as well as its dimenſions; we ſhall add here that the iſland is cut throughout the whole length by a ridge of woody mountains, which, riſing in an amphitheatre, afford one of the fineſt proſpects in the world: moſt of them are divided by dales of a delicious temperature; but the plains, to which Nature has given fertility, exhale a burning air, that becomes almoſt intolerable in theſe places, eſpecially where the coaſt, ſtraightened by the backs of the mountains, receives from the waves and rocks a double reflection of the ſun.

The ſettling of the French at ST. DOMINGO goes as far back as 1630, when the Engliſh, driven with them out of St. Chriſtopher's, took refuge at LA TORTUE, ("Turtle Iſland," called alſo "Tortudas" or "Tortugas",) a little iſland, three leagues from the North coaſt towards the Weſt end: a crowd of adventurers joined them; they were called "Buccaniers" from their hunting the wild bulls in the Iſland of St. Domingo to ſell their hides to the Dutch; and "Freebooters" from their cruiſing at ſea againſt the Spaniards. In this little iſland, ſix leagues long and two broad, without any river, was formed and increaſed this race of intrepid men, ſo famous in the hiſtory of the New World. The Spaniards ſlaughtered the firſt colony. The Buccaniers, who had eſcaped from the carnage, having choſen for their chief Willis, an Engliſhman diſtinguiſhed for his bravery, retook their iſland in 1638. Several Engliſhmen came to join Willis, and the two nations ſoon quarelled. Poinci, who then commanded in the French Windward Iſlands, ſent a reinforcement to his countrymen, who obliged the Engliſh to retire without bloodſhed. After that time, the French, ſole maſters of La Tortue, were driven out three times by the Spaniards, retook it as often, and, at laſt, in 1659, remained undiſturbed in its poſſeſſion. Their plunders continued by ſea and land, and nobody thought of them in France till 1665, when D'Ogeron, their firſt Governor, tried to make planters of theſe adventurers, on the coaſts of St. Domingo. He ſucceeded in part, ſince he collected about 1560, and he may be regarded as the founder of this colony, whoſe progreſs was a long time interrupted by monopolies of trade, ſucceſſively granted to excluſive companies. Tobacco and cacao, at the beginning, were the principal articles of their culture; all the cacao-trees that D'Ogeron had firſt planted periſhed in 1715; they had ſo prodigiouſly increaſed, that there were ſome plantations with 20,000 of theſe trees. This culture has never been reſumed with any degree of conſequence; but that of canes and indigo, begun towards the end of the laſt century, was purſued with a new activity; and, after 1722, when all the monopolies were ſuppreſſed, no colony moved towards proſperity ſo rapidly as St. Domingo.

The French colony in this iſland comprehends 215 leagues of coaſt, (reckoning from Cape to Cape) ſituated on the North, Weſt, and South, that form three natural diviſions, of which the two laſt are ſeparated from that of the North by inacceſſible mountains. Their boundaries towards the Spaniſh territories are very uncertain; but, if we take the moſt inland places the French have cultivated, we ſhall ſee that

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their territory takes a narrow crooked band, ſometimes only ſix or ſeven leagues broad, and never reaching more than 10 leagues.

The South part extends from Cape Beata to Cape Tiburon, which makes 75 leagues of coaſt, cloſed up more or leſs by the mountains. Upon this coaſt is the Iſle a Vache (Cow Iſland), one of the rendezvous of the Buccaniers, who began a ſettlement there in 1673. This ſettlement owed its progreſs to the Engliſh of Jamaica, and the Dutch of Curacao, who, having found means to carry on the whole of the ſlave trade, took away in return all the productions of a country of which they alone promoted the culture. It was not till 1740 that the French merchants began to frequent this diſtant part of the colony, where the winds often render the outward paſſage long and difficult.

The principal ſettlements on this ſide are Jaquemel, St. Louis, and Les Cayes (The Keys). Jaquemel, the moſt Eaſterly of the three, is much more conſiderable for its ſituation, which, in time of war, makes it fit to receive troops and ſtores of all kinds from the mother-country, than for the number of its houſes, which are not 42. St. Louis contains not a greater number, tho' it is the ſeat of Government; it was a long time in want of good water to drink; but ſome Jews, who had plantations near the gates, at laſt undertook to make, at their expence, an aqueduct, that is now compleated. The Port of St. Louis, ſeated on a very ſafe bay, receives the ſhips of war which come on theſe ſhores, and by that means protects the riches and trade of Les Cayes, ſituated nine leagues lower. This laſt town, placed at the bottom of a ſhallow and dangerous road, has 280 houſes built on a marſhy land, moſtly ſurrounded with a ſtanding water. This unhealthy ſituation is recompenced by the advantages accruing to the planters from the circumjacent plain, whoſe length is about ſix leagues, and the breadth four and a half; the ground cloſe and level, of a prodigious fertility, and every where fit for the planting of ſugar, is watered in ſeveral places, and might be throughout: the number of its ſlaves increaſes every day, and they will ſoon be multiplied in a proportion agreeable to the meaſure of poſſible fruitfulneſs.

The South diſtrict terminates at Cape Tiburon, and the ſmall ſettlement founded there has only an open road continually agitated, but which is a ſhelter for men of war, and may protect merchant-ſhips by its fortifications.

The Weſtern part of the colony reaches from Cape Tiburon to the Mole of St. Nicolas, and comprehends about 92 leagues of coaſt. Its Capital, where the ſuperior Council and the Intendant have reſided ſince 1750, is the town of Port au Prince, at the bottom of a bay divided in two by La Gonave, a deſolate and barren iſland; it contains 558 houſes, diſperſed in 29 ſtreets. They have no good water, and the harbour is but middling; add to which, that the place, commanded on the land ſide, is every where acceſſible towards the ſea.

The principal ſettlements on this coaſt are L'Ance Jeremie, which affords a quantity of cotton and cacao; Le Petit Goave, ſo famous in the time of the Buccaniers;

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Leogane,

Leogane, a town of 317 houſes, formerly the capital of the diſtrict; this ſtands about half a league from the ſea, in a narrow but fruitful plain, well cultivated and watered by a great number of brooks. To the North of Port au Prince is St. Mark, a town of 154 houſes, all built of free-ſtone, as good as any of Europe, which is found in plenty on the coaſt and in the neighbouring mountains. It is a very trading town, whoſe opulence will increaſe in an aſtoniſhing manner, if the French ſucceed in watering the dry plain of Artibonite, a country whoſe name is that of a river which parts it in two throughout the whole length, and which is the moſt conſiderable in the iſland.

The Northern part of the French colony takes in about 47 leagues of the coaſt, ſeparated at the end from that of the Weſt by the Mole of St. Nicolas, which partakes of both coaſts, and terminating on the Eaſt in the environs of "Monte Chriſto," famous for the ſmuggling trade carried on there by foreign ſhips with the Spaniards. At the extremity of Cape St. Nicolas is a harbour, equally fine, ſafe, and convenient, about 2900 yards broad at the entrance; ſhips of any burden may ride at anchor in the baſon perfectly ſafe, even during a hurricane. Nature, by placing this harbour oppoſite to Point Maizi in the Iſland of Cuba, ſeems to have deſigned it for the moſt intereſting poſt of North America, with reſpect to navigation. It was a long time neglected by the inhabitants of St. Domingo; but the advantages which the Engliſh procured themſelves from its ſituation, during the laſt war, have made it riſe, as it were, out of nothing, ſince the peace. The French began by bringing 4 or 5000 Acadians, and 2 or 300 Germans, moſt of whom are dead: ſome years after, they declared the Mole a free port; in conſequence of this ſtep, the inhabitants have received a ſubſiſtence which the adjacent country could not ſupply them with; their houſes, which were very mean and poor, have been all, within theſe three years, rebuilt with materials brought from North America. At preſent, the town is divided into ſeveral fine ſtreets, all traverſed by artificial rills of running water; it conſiſts of 400 good houſes, beſides a large ſtorehouſe for the navy, an hoſpital, and ſeveral public buildings. Four hundred and fifty Negroes, who belong to the King, are conſtantly employed on the fortifications; and, when thoſe of the town and adjoining batteries are completed, they are to begin a citadel on the North point, that will be mounted with 100 pieces of cannon.

For the conveniency of the trade eſtabliſhed in this port, a very good carriage-road has been made between the Mole of St. Nicolas and Le Cap Francois, the Capital of the Colony. The importation of North American lumber, as well as the export of molaſſes, are permitted at all times; and, at particular conjunctures, the port is open for all the commodities of North America, ſuch as, flour, biſcuit, fiſh, &c. which affords occaſions for a contraband trade, very advantageous to both nations. In 1772, the number of veſſels cleared outwards amounted to between two and three hundred, moſtly conſiſting of brigs and ſnows, all from different parts of North America: adding to theſe the other foreign ſhips, the French

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coasting vessels, and the merchantmen from Europe, the whole is hardly less than 400.

The Mole of St. Nicolas, with all these natural advantages, having besides that of commanding the Windward Passage, will infallibly become "the Dunkirk of America," to use the expression of an author very experienced in the affairs of the West Indies. This same author, with reason, supposes, that we have no other method to act with efficacy against this project of the French, but by making a harbour for our ships of war at Port Antonio, in Jamaica, which is so happily circumstanced, that it would curb the French fortifications, as well as protect our homeward-bound ships in time of war.

The principal settlement between the Mole of St. Nicolas and Cape Francois is Port Paix, whose environs produce little sugar, but plenty of indigo, cotton, and coffee.

Cap Francois (the French Cape) is situated at the edge of a large plain, twenty leagues long, and, on an average, about four broad, between the sea and the mountains. There are few lands better watered, but there is not a river where a sloop can go up above three miles. All this large space is cut through by straight roads, forty feet broad, constantly lined with hedges of lemon-trees, and intermixed with long avenues of lofty trees, which lead to several plantations. It produces a greater quantity of sugar than any country in the world. The Cape-town, placed in the most unhealthy place of this wonderful plain, consists of twenty-nine straight, narrow, and dirty streets, divided into 226 allotments, which comprehend 810 houses. The General's House, the Barracks, and the King's Magazine, are the only public buildings which attract the looks of the curious; but those that deserve to be considered by a friend to mankind, are the two hospitals, named "the Houses of Providence," founded by the Colony for those Europeans who come there without money or trade. The men and women receive separately all the assistance that their situation requires, till they have got places. This establishment, so humane, and so political at the same time, has not its parallel in all the West Indies, except at Carthagena; and, certainly, it is a consequence of this happy institution, that fewer people die at the Cape than in the other towns which stand on the sea-shore. The Harbour of Cape Francois, admirably well situated for ships which come from Europe, is only open to the North, from whence it can receive no damage, its entrance being sprinkled over with reefs, that break the force of the waves. One easily sails out, and the going out of these seas is performed in a very short time.

Twelve leagues to the windward of the Cape is Port Dauphin, formerly Bayaha, the nearest settlement to Monte Christo. This port is very fine and safe, and the surrounding plain very fertile; but the town, too near to that of the Cape to enjoy exclusively these advantages, has not yet above ninety houses.

The commodities of the whole colony of St. Domingo amounted, in 1764, to 80 millions weight of rough or Muscovado sugar, 35 millions weight of white sugar, and

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and 1,880,000 pounds of indigo; at the ſame time, they gathered 7 millions weight of coffee, and a million and a half weight of cotton. Above half theſe riches were furniſhed by the North coaſt alone; the reſt came as well from the Weſt as the South. There was, beſides, this difference, that the indigo and cotton were the chief productions in the exports of the South and Weſt, the ſugar and coffee in thoſe of the North.

In 1764, St. Domingo had 8786 Whites able to bear arms; 4306 inhabited on the North, 3470 on the Weſt, and 1010 on the South: from hence, according to the method of calculating generally received, the whole of the Whites will be above 35,000. Theſe forces are increaſed by 5817 Mulattoes, or free Negroes, who are alſo inrolled: there are 497 of them in the South, 2250 in the Weſt, and 1370 in the North diſtrict. The number of ſlaves was 206,000, of every age and ſex, diſtributed in the following manner: 12,000 in the nine great towns, ſome of them workmen, others employed in the houſehold buſineſs; 4000 employed in the country-towns, at the brick-kilns, potters work-houſes, lime-kilns, &c. 1000 deſtined to raiſe proviſions and other vegetables; and 180,000 to the culture which produces the commodities for exportation. After this enumeration, to the end of 1767, 51,567 Negroes were brought to St. Domingo, in 171 French ſhips. They have not replaced thoſe who have died, the vacancy having been more than filled up by the ſlaves introduced in a clandeſtine manner; neither have they ſerved for the luxury of the towns, where the number of all ſorts of menial ſervants has even decreaſed: theſe newly-tranſported ſlaves have been all applied to planting; ſo that now the whole of the Negroes at St. Domingo is above 250,000. The culture is increaſed in this proportion. In the room of indigo, which the lands worn out began to yield in leſs plenty, 40 new ſugar-plantations have been erected; they reckon at preſent 260 in the North diſtrict, 197 in the Weſt, and 84 in the South. The ſugar-refineries are ſtill increaſed in a greater proportion than the plantations, and the quantity of white ſugar made is nearly doubled. Cotton has made immenſe progreſs in the vallies of the Weſt, as well as coffee in thoſe of the North. There are even ſome plantations of cacao raiſed in the woods of the Grande Anſe.

One may aſſert, after very faithful authorities, that, in the year 1767, there was carried out of St. Domingo 72,718,781 pounds weight of rough ſugar, 51,562,013 of white ſugar; in the whole more than 124 millions weight of ſugar; 1,769,562 pounds of indigo, 150,000 pounds of cacao, 12,197,977 pounds of coffee, 2,965,920 pounds of cotton, 8470 packets of raw hides, 10,350 ſides of tanned hides, 4180 hogſheads of rum, and 21,104 hogſheads of molaſſes. Such is the maſs of the productions regiſtered at the cuſtom-houſes of St. Domingo in 1767, and exported in 347 ſhips, which arrived from France. The ladings made when the veſſels were under ſail, the overplus of the declared weights, and the payments for Negroes clandeſtinely introduced, cannot have taken away leſs than a ſixth part of the goods of the colony, which ought to be added to the known enumeration of its riches. Add ſtill to this, that

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that perſons the moſt verſed in the knowledge of this iſland, and the moſt moderate in their calculations, aſſert, that its culture might be increaſed more than a third.

To the North of St. Domingo the French claim ſeveral uninhabited iſlands, which do not deſerve a deſcription, ſuch as, INAGUA, MOGANE, or MAYAGUANA, LES CAYQUES, &c.

To finiſh our account of the French Iſlands, we are obliged, from St. Domingo, to return to the chain of the Caribbees, which we have already run through, where Guadaloupe and its dependencies are the firſt that offer themſelves to our conſideration.

GUADELOUPE, or GUADALOUPE, has more than 60 leagues of coaſts, whoſe navigation is generally difficult, and on which are found only ſome middling roads; it is cut into two by a little arm of the ſea, only a league and a quarter long, and from thirty to eighty yards broad. This channel, known by the name of "Riviere Salée" (Salt River), is navigable for barks of 50 tons.

The part of the iſland which gives its name to the whole colony is filled in the center with frightful rocks, where a continual cold ſuffers nothing to grow but ferns, and ſome uſeleſs trees covered with moſs. The aſpect of theſe rocks, like to thoſe of "Our Lady of Guadalupe," in Old Spain, has given to the Iſland the name it bears at preſent. Towards the South point, at the ſummit of them, riſes ſo high as to be loſt out of ſight, in the middle region of the air, a mountain called "La Souffriere," which exhales, out of an opening 100 feet wide, a thick and black ſmoke, mixed with ſparks, which are viſible in the night. Out of all theſe mountains run a great many ſtreams that carry fruitfulneſs into the plains which they water, and temper the burning air of the climate. The other part of the iſland, commonly called GRANDE-TERRE, has not been ſo well treated by Nature; indeed, it is leſs rough, and more level, but it wants ſprings and rivers; the ſoil more ſandy is not ſo fertile, nor is its climate ſo healthy and agreeable.

The whole Iſland is divided into twenty-two pariſhes, fourteen in Guadeloupe, and eight in Grande-Terre; the ſeat of government is at Baſſe-Terre, on the South of the Iſland. This town, which conſiſts of a long ſtreet along the ſea-ſhore is defended by Fort Royal, a ſmall fort, badly built, and very irregular. The capital of Grande-Terre is Fort St. Louis, another ſmall fortreſs, three leagues to the South-Eaſt of the Salt River. Since the peace they have laid out the ſite of a regular town, to be called "Le Bourg," which will be the handſomeſt of any in the colony.

The French having ſettled at Guadeloupe, in 1635, began by attacking the Caribbs who poſſeſſed the iſland. This war was followed, during three years, by a horrible famine, that almoſt deſtroyed the infant colony; the inhabitants were reduced to eat graſs, and to dig up the dead corps to live on. After the famine came the incurſions of enemies, diſputes among the chiefs and planters, and ſome other diſaſters, which brought them more than once to the brink of ruin. If Guadeloupe did not

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ſink under ſo many misfortunes, its progreſs was ſo confined and ſo ſlow, that, at the end of ſixty years, the mother-country hardly perceived the exiſtence of this colony. The beginning of its ſucceſs and proſperity cannot be dated before the peace of Utrecht. At the end of 1755, Guadeloupe contained 9643 Whites, and 41,140 ſlaves of every age and ſex. The amount of its ſaleable goods was produced by 334 ſugar-plantations, 15 ſquare fields of indigo, 46,840 cacao-trees, 11,700 tobacco-plants, 2,257,725 of coffee, and 12,748,447 of cotton. For its proviſions they cultivated 29 ſquares of rice, or maize, and 1219 of potatoes and yams, 2,028,520 bananas, and 32,577,950 holes of manioc. The cattle of Guadeloupe conſiſted of 4946 horſes, 2924 mules, 125 aſſes, 13,716 horned beaſts, 11,162 ſheep, or goats, and 2455 ſwine. The principal article of this account is that of the holes of manioc; and it is, perhaps, requiſite, before we continue our deſcription, to give ſome account of ſo intereſting a production.

The Manioc, or Manihot, as the French call it, is known to the Engliſh by the name of Caſſada; its Indian name is Yuca. It is a ſhrub, which grows about five feet high; it loves an open and mixed ſoil, and requires a very careful culture. The root comes to perfection in eight months time, and is often of the thickneſs of a man's thigh. They uſe it for food, after a very fatiguing preparation. They muſt ſcrape off the firſt ſkin, waſh it, raſp it, and preſs it, to extract the watery parts, which are a cold poiſon, againſt which there is no known remedy. The dreſſing is finiſhed by evaporating what remains of the deadly principle it contains. Repeated experiments have proved, that it is almoſt as dangerous to eat it hot as to eat it raw. The Manioc ſo prepared will keep a long time, is very nouriſhing, though a little difficult to digeſt. The French call this bread "Caſſave," and ſometimes "Madagaſcar bread;" the old Indians call it "Cazzavi." Although the Caſſava ſeems at firſt inſipid, there are a great number of white inhabitants in the iſlands who prefer it to the beſt wheaten bread; all the Spaniards in general make a conſtant uſe of it; the French feed their ſlaves with it, only they add every week three pounds of dried cod or two pounds of ſalt beef, that they may be able to ſupport the hard labour with which they are loaded. The Engliſh iſlands, which receive their principal ſubſiſtence from North America, cultivate but little Manioc in compariſon of the French; and one may affirm that there is more of this plant cultivated at Guadeloupe alone than in all the Engliſh iſlands taken together.

The enumeration, which has occaſioned this digreſſion, ſhews us Guadeloupe as it was when conquered by the Engliſh in April, 1759; they kept it till July, 1763. In the ſhort interval of their poſſeſſion they introduced a prodigious quantity of European merchandizes, and, what was ſtill more neceſſary, 18,721 Negroes. The flouriſhing ſtate into which they had raiſed this colony in ſo ſhort a time ſtruck every body when they reſtored it at the peace. The mother-country, led by that idea of conſideration which is produced by opulence, viewed it with a kind of reſpect. Till then Guadeloupe had been ſubordinate to Martinico; they delivered it from

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this dependence by appointing its own Governor and Intendant: but the French impatience produced ſome inconveniencies which have coſt very dear to the inhabitants of Guadeloupe and its dependencies. By theſe we underſtand ſeveral ſmall iſlands, which, being compriſed in the diſtrict of its Government, fell with it under the yoke of the Engliſh: ſuch is LA DESIRADE, to the North of Grande-terre, from which it is ſeparated by a channel of about three leagues; it is a kind of rock of the ſame length, and about a league broad, having no water except in a few ponds, and producing nothing but cotton. The Government of the iſles ſometimes baniſhes there the incorrigible vagabonds, who call it among themſelves "La Deſpérade."

MARIEGALANTE, poſſeſſed by the French ſince 1648, is ſeparated from the Pointe des Châteaux, the extremity of Grande-terre, by a channel of five or ſix leagues broad; it is a kind of oval, whoſe greater diameter is above four leagues long from North to South, and it is covered with barren mountains over above half its ſurface; there are only two pariſhes, the principal to the South is defended by a ſmall fort, and called Baſſe-terre. This iſland, indifferently watered, produces, however, 800,000 pounds of coffee, 100,000 of cotton, and a million pounds of ſugar.

Between Mariegalante and Guadeloupe, about two leagues diſtance from this, and five from the other, are the SAINTES; theſe are two very ſmall iſlands, each about a league long, and half a league broad, which, with ſome other iſlands ſtill ſmaller, form a triangle whoſe inner part is a tolerable good road; the Northern iſland, which is the moſt craggy, is called *Terre d'en haut*, the Southern *Terre d'en bas*; they produce 50,000 pounds of coffee, and 90,000 pounds of cotton.

The dependencies of Guadeloupe were all diſcovered by Columbus, in his ſecond voyage in 1493; he called the firſt "Deſirade," becauſe it was the firſt land he ſaw after he had long beat about the ſea. The name of his ſhip, "Maria Galanta," was given to the ſecond iſland; and "the Saintes" were ſo called from the holiday of All Saints, which had been that of their diſcovery.

For a particular detail of the riches of Guadeloupe we muſt recur to the enumeration made in 1767: by this account the iſland, taking in the little ſettlements we have juſt mentioned, contains 11,863 white inhabitants of every age and ſex; 752 free Blacks or Mulattoes; 72,761 ſlaves; the whole making 85,376 perſons. Its cattle conſiſts of 5060 horſes; 4854 mules; 111 aſſes; 17,378 horned beaſts; 14,895 ſheep and goats, and 2669 ſwine. For its proviſions it has 30,476,218 holes of Manioc; 2,819,262 bananas; 2118 ſquares of land planted with yams and potatoes. Among its plantations are counted 72 anattas, 327 caſſia-trees, 134,294 cacao-trees, 5,881,176 coffee-trees, 12,156,769 plants of cotton, 21,474 ſquares of land planted with ſugar-canes.

The woods take up 22,097 ſquares of land; there are 20,247 of paſture or ſavannas, and 6405 uncultivated or abandoned: 1582 plantations raiſe cotton, coffee, cacao, and proviſions, &c. and 401 ſugar-canes; theſe laſt employ 140 water-mills, 263 moved by oxen, and 11 by wind.

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The productions of Guadeloupe and its dependencies amount annually to 46 millions

lions weight of ſugar; 21 millions of coffee; 320,000 pounds of cotton; and 8000 pounds of cacao. Some aſſert, that this produce might be increaſed by a fifth part; but other obſervers as intelligent, who believe there is no hope of an increaſe of culture in this iſland, affirm that the part known by the name of Guadeloupe has been for a long time cultivated to the higheſt degree, and that Grande-terre, which at preſent is all newly cleared, and conſequently the land quite freſh, furniſhes very near three-fifths of the productions of the whole ſettlement.

Twenty-two leagues to the South of Guadeloupe, is the iſland of LA MARTINIQUE, called by the Engliſh MARTINICO. This iſland is above 18 leagues long, and five or ſix broad in the middle; its circuit containing near 60 leagues of coaſt. It has the moſt happy ſituation of any of the French ſettlements, with reſpect to the winds which blow in theſe ſeas, and its harbours have the great advantage of affording a ſhelter againſt the hurricanes, ſo deſtructive in this part of the Weſt-Indies. Martinico was ſettled, in 1635, by a detachment of 100 planters, brought there by D'Enambuc from St.Chriſtopher's; they ſuffered a good deal from the Caribbs, whom they totally drove out in 1658. Being in peace after this expulſion, which, like all others of the ſame kind, can only be juſtified by the horrid right of the ſtronger ſword, they gave themſelves up to the planting of tobacco and cotton, and ſoon followed that of anatta and indigo. Benjamin Dacoſta, a Jew, who took refuge in their ſettlement, taught them ten years afterwards that of cacao, which, however, was not common till 1684, when it became the reſource of the greater part of the planters who had not a ſufficient ſtock to attempt the culture of ſugar. All the cacao-trees having periſhed in 1718, the deſolation was general among the inhabitants of Martinico; the coffee-tree was offered to them as a plank after a ſhipwreck.

The coffee-plant, an evergreen ſhrub, comes originally from Upper Ethiopia, where it has been known from time immemorial, and where it is ſtill cultivated with ſucceſs: its fruit or berry in this climate is a little longer, leſs green, and almoſt as much ſcented as that which began to be gathered in Arabia towards the end of the 16th century. It is ſuppoſed that a Mollah, named Ghadely, was the firſt Arabian who introduced the uſe of coffee, with an intention to deliver himſelf from a continual drowſineſs, which hindered him from attending to his nightly prayers. His Derviſes imitated him. Their example was followed by the lawyers, and one ſoon perceived that this drink purified the blood by a mild agitation, diſſipated heavineſs, and raiſed the ſpirits. Its uſe was inſenſibly ſpread over the principal cities of Arabia, eſpecially at Mecca, from whence the pilgrims carried it to all the Mahometan nations. They ſoon contrived in theſe countries, where ſociety is more difficult than in Europe, to ſet up public houſes where they made coffee. This cuſtom was not confined to Aſia, for, in 1652, an Engliſh merchant, named Edwards, who returned from the Levant, opened at London the firſt coffee-houſe that ever was in Europe, where they have ſo much multiplied ſince. The miniſtry of France had received a preſent from the Dutch of two coffee-trees, which were preſerved with much care in

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the Royal garden of plants at Paris. They took two ſuckers from them, which an officer, named Deſclieux, was charged to carry to Martinico, after the deſtruction of the cacao-trees in this colony. There was ſuch a ſcarcity of water aboard the ſhip he was in, that they were reduced to diſtribute only a very ſmall meaſure to each man. Deſclieux parted the little ſhare he received for his drink with his little trees, and by this generous ſacrifice, he ſaved the precious depoſit he was truſted with, and revived this important colony, by enriching its ſettlers with a new branch of induſtry. In 1736, they had 11,953,232 coffee-trees; and by ſome calculations made concerning the populouſneſs, as well as the articles of culture and trade, the iſland was then in a ſtate of proſperity much ſuperior to what it is at preſent.

Martinico is croſſed throughout its whole length by a ridge of high mountains paſſable in ſeveral places, though their center is only a heap of craggy rocks. This ridge is ſuch that it makes the iſland appear to the navigators like three diſtinct mountains; from hence run above 40 rivers, and a great many leſſer ſtreams. The ſoil is very unequal; ſome grounds alternately ſuffer by dryneſs and rain; there are ſome marſhy, and almoſt entirely drowned by the ſea; others are ſo ſtony as to baffle all attempts of the planters; but the greateſt quantity of land between the ſhore and the mountains is capable of being ſucceſsfully cultivated, and there wants nothing but means for the inhabitants to render it as fruitful as poſſible.

Martinico is divided into 28 pariſhes, which contain about the ſame number of towns or villages, and two principal towns, Fort Royal and St. Pierre. The firſt is the ſeat of Government; its ſtreets are regular, the houſes agreeable, and the inhabitants very much given to all kinds of luxury; they are the Pariſians of the Weſt-Indies. To the Eaſt of the town on a neck of land is an irregular fort, badly built and worſe deſigned, which gives name to the town it poorly defends. Fort Royal, as well as the reſt of the iſland, fell under the power of the Engliſh in the laſt war; they reſtored it at the peace. The French have ſince built a citadel upon Morne Garnier, an eminence higher than the moſt elevated points of Mornes Patate, Tartanſon, and Cartouche, which all command Fort Royal. This citadel has coſt more than 325,000l. ſterling, and ſo conſiderable an expence appears thrown away to thoſe who believe that the navy alone ought to defend the colonies.

The harbour of Port-Royal, where the men of war anchor and winter, is one of the beſt of the Windward Iſles, and its ſecurity againſt the hurricanes generally acknowledged: it is ſuppoſed that the inner part has been ſpoilt by ſinking the hulks of ſeveral ſhips to make a fence againſt the Engliſh in the laſt war.

The Fort of St. Pierre is five leagues to the leeward of Fort Royal, in a round bay of the Weſtern coaſt. This town, the firſt built in the iſland, is the place of communication between the colony and mother-country; it is the reſidence of the merchants, and the center of buſineſs. Notwithſtanding the fires which have reduced it four times to aſhes, it ſtill contains 1748 houſes: a part, ſituated along the ſea-ſide on the ſtrand itſelf, is called Le Mouillage (the anchoring-place), a very unhealthy

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healthy place of abode; the other part, ſeparated from this by a river, is built upon a low hill; they call it the Fort, from a ſmall fortreſs which defends the road. This road is very good for the loading and unloading the ſhips, and the facility of coming in or going out; but they are obliged in winter-time to take ſhelter at Fort-Royal.

According to an account, taken July the 25th, 1767, Martinico contained 12,450 white inhabitants of every age and ſex; 1814 free Blacks or Mulattoes; 70,553 ſlaves; 443 Marons or fugitive Negroes; and in the whole 84,817 ſouls. The number of births in 1767 was a thirtieth part among the Whites, and a twenty-fifth among the Blacks.

The cattle of the colony are compoſed of 3776 horſes, 4214 mules, 293 aſſes, 12,736 horned beaſts, 975 ſwine, and 13,544 ſheep and goats.

For its proviſions it has 17,930,596 holes of Manioc, 3,509,048 bananas, 406 ſquares and a half of yams and potatoes.

The plantations conſiſt of 11,444 ſquares of land planted with canes, 6,638,757 plants of coffee, 871,043 of cacao, 1,764,807 of cotton, 59,966 of caſſia, and 61 of anatta.

The paſtures or ſavannas take up 10,972 ſquares of land, there are 11,966 of wood, and 8448 uncultivated or abandoned.

The number of plantations for coffee, cotton, cacao, and other leſs important objects, is 1515; there are only 286 where they make ſugar. All theſe plantations employ 116 water-mills, 12 wind-mills, and 184 cattle-mills. Before the hurricane on the 13th of Auguſt, 1766, they reckoned 302 of the ſmaller habitations and 15 ſugar-works more than in 1767.

This enumeration confirms what we have already ſaid, that Martinico has loſt much of the ſplendour it had 40 years ago. The two wars carried on in this ſpace of time have proved very fatal to its inhabitants; and, after having been taken in the laſt, the peace reſtored it to France quite naked, and bereaved of the additional means which had given her colony ſo much luſtre. Before this laſt war, Martinico had entirely loſt its lucrative contraband trade with the Spaniards; the ceſſion of Cape Breton and Canada, from which came annually 60 or 70 ſhips, deprived it of a very advantageous commerce; the productions of Grenada, St. Vincent, and Dominica, were no more ſent into its ports; and, by the miniſterial arrangement with regard to Guadeloupe, nothing was to be expected from this iſland; in ſhort, debts had been imprudently contracted. All theſe things reducing Martinico to itſelf, have neceſſarily diminiſhed its trade and riches.

The products of this colony at preſent are limited to 28 million weight of ſugar, three million weight of coffee, 600,000 pounds of cotton, and 40,000 pounds of cacao. Foreigners carry off privately about a twelfth part of the goods of the iſland, the reſt goes to the mother-country. For this exportation, the merchants of France fitted out, in 1766, 143 veſſels, of which 101 landed at the town of St. Pierre, 35 at Fort-Royal, five at La Trinité, and two at Cul de Sac François.

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About

About ten leagues to the South of Martinico is the Iſland of ST. LUCIA. It is a kind of long ſquare, above nine leagues from North to South, and four in breadth from Weſt to Eaſt, whoſe circuit is near 30 leagues. The Engliſh and the French, who poſſeſſed it ſucceſſively after 1639, were maſſacred by the Caribbs, or murdered one another, at different times, till 1666. Then there was no longer any culture attended to, or any regular colony at St. Lucia; it was only frequented by the inhabitants of Martinico, to cut wood, and build canoes. Some French deſerters, both ſailors and ſoldiers, having taken refuge in this deſolate place, after the peace of Utrecht, the Mareſchal d'Eſtrées applied to his court for the property of the iſland; he obtained it, and ſent there ſome troops and planters in 1718. The court of London complained immediately of this ſtep; the Mareſchal abandoned his new ſettlement; and, in 1722, the Duke of Montague took poſſeſſion of the iſland, as being granted to him under the Great Seal of England. The court of Verſailles, as you may imagine, complained in their turn. After many negotiations, it was decided, in 1731, that, till the reſpective rights were cleared up, the two nations ſhould evacuate St. Lucia, but with liberty to both to wood and water there. This precarious determination became very favourable to the private intereſt of merchants and planters. The Engliſh did not diſturb the French in the enjoyment of their plantations, but made uſe of their channel to form contraband connections with the richer colonies, that the ſubjects of both governments found equally advantageous. This intercourſe laſted, with more or leſs vigour, till the treaty of 1763, which aſſures to France the property of St. Lucia, ſo long and ſo obſtinately diſputed.

The ſoil of St. Lucia is tolerably good near the ſea-ſhore, and becomes better as one advances within land: except ſome high and ſteep mountains, on which one may eaſily obſerve the marks of ancient volcanoes, the whole may be cleared with profit. We do not, indeed, find any very large plains, but ſeveral ſmall ones, where one might carry the culture of ſugar ſo far as to produce fifteen million pounds weight. The long and narrow ſhape of the iſland renders the carriage eaſy from any place where the canes ſhall be planted.

The air, in the inner part of St. Lucia, is juſt the ſame as it was in the other iſlands before they were inhabited, at firſt impure and unhealthy; but, as the wood is cut down, and the land laid open, it becomes leſs dangerous. Upon ſeveral parts of the leeward coaſt it is more deadly than any where elſe. Theſe receive ſome ſluggiſh rivers, which, coming from the foot of the mountains, have not deſcent enough to carry down with them the ſand, whoſe heaps, repelled by the tide, choak their mouths. This unſurmountable bar is the cauſe of many unhealthy marſhes in the middle of the lands.

The excellence of St. Lucia, which made the French prefer it to the other neutral iſles at the peace, is, however, on the leeward coaſt; it is its good harbour, called Le Carénage, at three leagues and a half from the North point of the iſland. This famous port has ſeveral united advantages; there is every where depth enough, and

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the quality of the bottom is excellent. Nature has formed there three careening-places, which do not want a key, and require nothing but a capſtan to turn the keel above ground. Thirty ſhips of the line might lie there, ſheltered from hurricanes, without the trouble of being moored. The boats of the country, which have been kept a long time in this harbour, have never been eat by the worms; however, they do not expect that this advantage will laſt, whatever be the cauſe. For the reſt, the winds are always good to go out with, and the largeſt ſquadron might be in the offing in leſs than an hour.

There are already nine pariſhes in the colony, eight to leeward, and only one to windward. This preference given to one part of the iſland more than another, does not proceed from the ſuperiority of the ſoil, but from the greater or leſs convenience in ſending out or receiving ſhips. A high road made round the iſland, and two others, which croſs it from Eaſt to Weſt, afford all manner of facilities to carry the commodities of the plantations to the barcaderes.

On the 1ſt of January, 1769, the free inhabitants of St. Lucia amounted to 2524 perſons of every age and ſex; the ſlaves to 10,270. It has in cattle 598 mules and horſes, 1819 horned beaſts, and 2378 ſheep. Its plantations conſiſted of 1,279,680 plants of cacao, 2,463,880 of coffee, 681 ſquares of cotton, and 454 of canes. There were 16 ſugar-works going on, and 18 nearly completed. The Government had already diſtributed 24,078 ſquares of land, which, in time, muſt produce a conſiderable revenue; ſince the moſt intelligent perſons affirm, that they might employ 50,000 Negroes, and furniſh the value of 500,000l. ſterling of commodities in trade, which were not computed then at more than 112,000l. The æra of its proſperity cannot be far off, ſince the activity of the planters is free from all the curbs which ſeem every where elſe to have ſlackened induſtry. Fifty men appointed to maintain public order are all the troops left at St. Lucia; it pays no tax either directly or indirectly; ſhips of all nations, without any duty of entrance or going out, and without any diſtinction, are received on its coaſts; every one carries what merchandizes he pleaſes, and trades with what goods he thinks will fetch the higheſt price. Since Europe has acquired poſſeſſions in the new world, none has been more favourably treated than St. Lucia.

Beſides the iſlands we have been deſcribing, France poſſeſſes another called St. Bartholomew, ſituated among the Engliſh leeward Caribbees, between Anguilla and St. Chriſtopher's; but it is ſo trifling and poor, that it hardly ſends any thing to the mother-country, which, in return, takes very little notice of it.

St. Bartholomew is about five or ſix leagues in circuit; the middle part is mountainous, the ſoil dry, except in ſome places on the coaſt, where they cultivate tobacco, proviſions, and a little indigo of an inferior ſort. Its ſhores are extremely dangerous, and the approaching them requires an experienced pilot; but it enjoys the advantage of having a very good harbour, of an excellent hold, in which ſhips of any ſize are perfectly ſheltered from all winds. Half the inhabitants of St. Bartholo-

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mew are deſcendants of Iriſh Papiſts, who ſettled there in 1666, after their expulſion from St. Chriſtopher's. Theſe inhabitants are very few; their poverty is ſuch, that the Engliſh privateers, who often put into their harbours during the laſt wars, always honeſtly paid for the few proviſions they were ſupplied with, although the whole force of the iſland could not compel them to do it. But theſe poor ſettlers, hardened to labour, ſeem the moſt content of any in the French territories; as we have already obſerved thoſe of the Caymans, as poor and as laborious as they, to be the happieſt of the Engliſh iſlands.

To St. Bartholomew we might perhaps add the iſland of ST. MARTIN'S, poſſeſſed by the French jointly with the Dutch. St. Martin's is to the South of Anguilla, from which it is ſeparated by a channel of about a league and a half broad. This iſland, in a circuit of 14 or 15 leagues, contains a great number of mountains, or rather huge rocks covered with heath. The ſandy ſoil of its plains and valleys, barren of itſelf, can only be made fruitful by the rains, and they fall but very ſeldom in this place. The iſland, deſtitute of rivers, has fountains and ciſterns, which afford good and drinkable water, in ſufficient quantity for all the planters. The air is very healthy, the ſhore full of fiſh, the ſea rarely diſturbed, and anchoring ſafe every where about the iſland.

The Dutch and French, who met there in 1638, lived peaceably, but ſeparate, till the Spaniards drove them away, to ſettle in their place. At the end of ten years theſe uſurpers abandoned the iſland, after having deſtroyed all they could not carry away. The firſt inhabitants returned, as ſoon as they knew it was evacuated; they agreed never to diſturb each others tranquillity, and have always been faithful to an engagement whoſe utility was reciprocal. The quarrels of their mother-countries never altered this diſpoſition. Peace conſtantly reigned in this happy aſylum, till 1757, when the French were driven out of their quarter by an Engliſh privateer, whoſe name was Cook; but they returned after the end of the war.

The French enjoy about 35,000 acres, out of the 55,000 which the whole iſland contains. Through this large ſpace are ſcattered about 100 White inhabitants, and 300 Blacks; though it might maintain 400 White families, and 10,000 ſlaves. The line of ſeparation, lying from Eaſt to Weſt, was agreed upon in 1684; the two nations ſigned their treaty on a mountain, which itſelf makes a natural diviſion, and has been named ſince "the Mountain of Concord." Their line, in aſſigning a leſs part to the Dutch, has ſufficiently made them amends, by the poſſeſſion of the only harbour in the iſland. Theſe republicans have not, however, profited more from this advantage than the French, ſince their diviſion contains no more than 60 families, and about 200 ſlaves. The two colonies breed poultry and ſheep, which they ſell to the other iſlands. They have always cultivated cotton, and lately planted coffee, with ſucceſs. Perhaps this production will procure them, one day or other, an affluence that the French at preſent ſeem to enjoy a great deal leſs than the Dutch.

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Theſe laſt poſſeſs the whole of the iſland of St. Euſtachia, ten leagues to the South of St. Martin's, and the iſland of Saba, four leagues to the leeward of St. Euſtachia.

ST. EUSTACHIA, about five leagues in circuit, is properly a very ſteep mountain, which ſeems to riſe out of the ſea, in the ſhape of a ſugar-loaf. It has no harbour, only an open road on the Weſt ſide. Some Frenchmen, driven out of St. Chriſtopher's, took refuge there, in 1629, and abandoned it ſoon after, becauſe this dock had no other freſh water but the rain they gathered in ciſterns: The exact time of this emigration is unknown; but it is certain the Dutch ſettlement goes as far back as 1639. The Engliſh, who took it, were, in their turn, driven out by Louis XIV. and, when the peace of Breda had aſſured the poſſeſſion to this Prince, he generouſly reſtored it to the Dutch. St. Euſtachia produces ſome tobacco, and near 600,000 pounds of ſugar. The number of its people, as a plantation, amounts to 120 White inhabitants, and 1200 Blacks. As a trading colony, it has 300 Whites, and ſometimes 1200 or 1500, when it has the good luck to be neuter in time of war.

During the laſt war, this iſland, which was rendered abſolutely free, was the mart of all the goods of the French colonies, and the principal magazine for ſupplying them with proviſions. The Engliſh and French met together on the coaſt, to form, under covert of its neutrality, regular partnerſhips of commerce. Its contraband trade in time of peace is moſt commonly confined to the exchange of Engliſh commodities, for the rum and molaſſes of the French iſlands.

The weakneſs of St. Euſtachia has not hindered it from ſending ſome of its inhabitants to the iſland of SABA. This is a ſteep rock, which is acceſſible only on one ſide, and one muſt climb almoſt to the top through a very crabbed artificial path to find any earth. In ſeveral places of this narrow way, the inhabitants, for greater ſecurity, have heaped up great ſtones on a kind of ſtages, ſo diſpoſed, that, by pulling a cord, the ſtage will fall down, and pour ſuch a ſhower of rocks and ſtones as would cruſh a whole army. The iſland is very fit for gardens; the frequent rains, whoſe water never reſts there, nouriſh plants of an exquiſite taſte, and among others cabbages of an extraordinary ſize. About 50 European families, with 130 ſlaves, cultivate cotton, and manufacture it into ſtockings, which are ſold at 15 or 16 florins a pair; they make likewiſe a great many ſhoes, which they diſpoſe of to advantage in the other iſlands. There is no where ſo handſome a race as the people of Saba, and their women preſerve a freſh colour, which is not to be found in any other of the Antilles.

But the moſt conſiderable ſettlement of the Dutch in the Weſt-Indies is at Curaçao, on the coaſt of Terra Firma, under the 12th degree of latitude, and about 20 leagues from Cape St. Roman.

The iſland of CURAÇAO, which the ſailors call "Curaſſow," or "Curacoa," is about 15 leagues long, and four or five broad in the middle. In 1634, the Dutch took it from the Spaniards, who had occupied it from the year 1627. The French in vain attempted to expel them in 1673 and in 1678; ſince theſe two fruitleſs attempts,

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tempts, their poſſeſſion has not been diſturbed by any people. The iſland, almoſt every where rugged and ſtony, is barren and very badly watered; neither is its climate healthy or agreeable. There were formerly ſome tolerable good paſtures where they bred a great number of cattle, but for a long time theſe have given place to the planting of ſugar and tobacco, of which, however, they produce but a middling quantity. At preſent, it is aſſerted that the whole produce of the iſland would not maintain the inhabitants for 24 hours; but ſuch is the regulation of the Dutch Government, that there is no place in the Weſt-Indies where want is leſs felt than at Curaçao. Towards the S. W. extremity is a very fine town, with an excellent harbour, but of a very difficult acceſs; when a veſſel has once entered, its ſpacious baſon affords every kind of conveniency and ſafety. A fortreſs, built with great ſkill, and conſtantly kept in order, defends this harbour; it is called Fort Amſterdam, and gives its name to the town.

Although Nature ſeems to have refuſed every thing to this iſland, the Dutch have not only ſupplied by art all that it wanted, but have even converted ſeveral deficiencies into advantages: ſo that, where one would naturally expect to meet with a poor and neceſſitous people without hardly any communication with their neighbours, we really find a rich and well-peopled city, full of magazines of all kinds of merchandizes, and a harbour where ſhips not only anchor in perfect ſecurity, but where, by means of a variety of engines, they may be raiſed into convenient docks, careened with a ſurpriſing quickneſs, and furniſhed with rigging of every ſort, ſtores of all kinds, and even artillery if they want it. When Admiral Knowles attacked La Guayra and Porto Cabello, as we have already mentioned under the article of the Spaniſh Territories, the Dutch of Curaçao furniſhed the fleet with cables, ammunition, and even with men; ſo that the Admiral would have infallibly ſucceeded in his expedition, if the ſame motive, and the ſame mercantile principle, had not engaged them to furniſh the Spaniards before-hand with a ſufficient quantity of warlike ſtores to render our attempt abortive.

Curaçao is become an immenſe magazine, where the Spaniards come in their boats to exchange their gold, ſilver, vanilla, cacao, cochineal, quinquina, hides, mules, &c. for Negroes, linnen, ſilk, India ſtuffs, ſpices, lace, ribbons, quickſilver, and iron and ſteel works. It is aſſerted, that the article of Negroes alone has yielded a million ſterling in one year. Theſe voyages, though continual, have not hindered a multitude of Dutch ſloops from carrying on a contraband trade between their iſland and the bays of the Spaniſh main. The ſubſtituting regiſter-ſhips to the galleons has of late ſlackened this double communication; but it cannot fail to recover its former vigour, as ſoon as the misfortune of a war hinders the Spaniſh Continent from being directly ſupplied with proviſions and merchandizes.

The quarrels of the courts of London and Verſailles opened ſome new branches of trade at Curaçao; this iſland then ſupplied all the South coaſt of St. Domingo, and took off all its product. The French ſhips from the Leeward Iſlands came in crowds

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during the war to Curaçao, notwithſtanding the length of the paſſage; they there found all that was neceſſary for the fitting of their ſhips, often the merchandize of the Spaniſh coaſts, and always thoſe of Europe, which were univerſally in uſe.

Every thing which enters at Curaçao pays indifferently a port-duty of one per cent. The merchandizes ſent from Holland have the privilege of never being taxed more. Thoſe which come from other ports of Europe pay, beſides, nine per cent. The foreign coffee is ſubject to the ſame duty, becauſe they want to encourage that of Surinam. All the other goods of America only pay three per cent. but are under an obligation to be carried directly to ſome of the ports of the Republic.

On the two ſides of Curaçao are two ſmall iſlands, both belonging to the Dutch; that of ARUBA, 12 leagues to the Weſt; and that of BUEN AIRE or BONAIRE, 14 leagues to the Eaſt: they are both uninhabited, and incapable of producing any thing; though the Dutch have a ſmall fort with a few ſoldiers in the iſle of Bonaire.

To complete this abridgement there only remains to deſcribe the three iſlands belonging to the Danes; we have already mentioned thoſe of St. Thomas and St. John, with their dependencies, among the Virgin Iſles; the third, which is the moſt conſiderable, is the iſland of Santa Cruz, to the South of the Virgins.

ST. THOMAS, 10 leagues to the Eaſt of Porto-Rico, is more than three leagues in length, and, on an average, one in breadth. Its ſoil, badly watered, is very ſandy. The Danes, who have been ſettled there ſince 1670, found it quite deſerted; they were, at firſt, diſturbed by the Engliſh, under a pretence that ſome vagabonds of their nation had formerly begun to cultivate it; but the Court of London having ſtopt the courſe of theſe vexations, the Daniſh colony formed ſucceſſively the ſmall number of ſugar-plantations we ſee at preſent in this iſland. The principal advantage of St. Thomas conſiſts in a very good harbour on the South ſide, where 50 ſhips may lie in ſafety; it is defended by a fort, whoſe batteries, at the ſame time, protect the ſmall town built round the ſhore. This harbour, which the Buccaniers have rendered very famous, is much frequented by merchant-ſhips: when they are chaced, in time of war, they find there a ſafe protection; and, in time of peace, a vent for their goods by the clandeſtine trade which the boats of St. Thomas continually carry on with the Spaniſh coaſts.

ST. JOHN's is only two leagues to the South of St. Thomas, and about the ſame ſize. The Danes did not begin to cultivate it till 1718, two years after the Spaniards had driven them from Crab Iſland. St. John's is the beſt watered among the Virgins, and its harbour has not only the reputation of being better than that of St. Thomas, but paſſes alſo for the beſt to the Leeward of Antigua: the Engliſh give it the name of "Crawl Bay." Notwithſtanding theſe advantages, there is ſo little good land in the iſland of St. John's, that its planting and exportations form only a very trifling object.

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SAINTE CROIX, or SANTA CRUZ, is the third and principal of the Daniſh iſlands: ſituated out of the group of the Virgins, five leagues to the South of St. John's, it extends from Eaſt to Weſt in a triangular form, its length being more than eight leagues, and the greateſt breadth two. It is a flat iſland, without mountains, and badly watered. It was occupied, in 1643, by the Dutch and Engliſh, who having ſoon quarrelled, the firſt were beaten and expelled, in 1646, after a very bloody engagement: 1200 Spaniards drove out the Engliſh in their turn; and, ſoon after, the French came, who expelled the Spaniards. The French, remaining maſters of the iſland, ſet fire to the woods, and the conflagration, upon which they gazed from their ſhips, laſted ſeveral months; as ſoon as it was extinguiſhed, they landed to eſtabliſh their ſettlement.

The land was found of an amazing fertility; tobacco, cotton, anatta, indigo, and ſugar, ſucceeded equally well, and the progreſs of this colony was ſuch, that, 11 years after its foundation, it contained 822 white inhabitants, with a proportional number of ſlaves. It then belonged to the Order of Malta, who ſold it, in 1664, to the French Weſt-India Company. The regulations of this Company were ſo pernicious, that Sainte Croix quickly fell to decay; and there did not remain above 300 Whites with 600 Blacks, when they were carried to St. Domingo, in 1696. The iſland was left without planters and uncultivated till 1733, when France ſold its property to Denmark for 164,000 rixdollars.

Denmark began very imprudently with eſtabliſhing a company, and an excluſive right of trade; but, in 1754, Santa Cruz and all the other iſlands were open to all the Daniſh ſubjects, who, at the ſame time, obtained the liberty of importing Negroes; they only pay four rixdollars for every Negro brought into America. The plantations of their colonies already employ above 30,000 ſlaves of every age and ſex, who pay each a capitation of one crown. The labours of theſe Negroes furniſh the cargoes of 40 ſhips, whoſe burden is from 120 to 300 tons. The plantations, which yield annually to the treaſury two Daniſh crowns for every 1000 ſquare feet, afford to the nation a little coffee and ginger, ſome wood for inlaying work, 800 bales of cotton, moſt of which go to foreigners, and 12 million weight of rough ſugar; four fifths of this laſt article are conſumed in the mother-country, the reſt is ſold in the Baltic, or carried into Germany by way of Altena. Santa Cruz, though the moſt modern of the Daniſh ſettlements, furniſhes five ſevenths of theſe productions.

This iſland is divided into 350 plantations, by lines cutting each other at right angles, and which form ſeven quarters or general diviſions. Each plantation contains 150 acres of 40,000 ſquare feet each, ſo that it may take up a ſpace of 1200 common paces in length, and 800 in breadth. Two thirds of the land are fit for ſugar, and the proprietor might cultivate 80 acres at once, each of which would yield, one year with another, 1600 pounds of ſugar, without including molaſſes; the remainder

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mainder might be employed in productions of leſs value. When the whole of the iſland ſhall be cleared, which depends on time and circumſtances, there may be ſeveral towns built on its ſhores; at preſent, it has only the town of Chriſtianſtæd, under the cannon of a fortreſs which defends the principal harbour on the North coaſt; and they have begun that of Friderickſtæd on the Weſt coaſt. The greateſt part of the inhabitants of Santa Cruz conſiſts of Engliſh from the iſlands of Nevis and Antigua, of Iriſh Papiſts, German Moravians, and a ſmall number of Danes. The Engliſh and Dutch poſſeſs the beſt plantations in the iſland, and moſt of its riches paſs into the hands of foreigners.

THE END.

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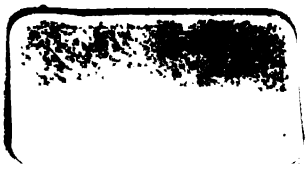

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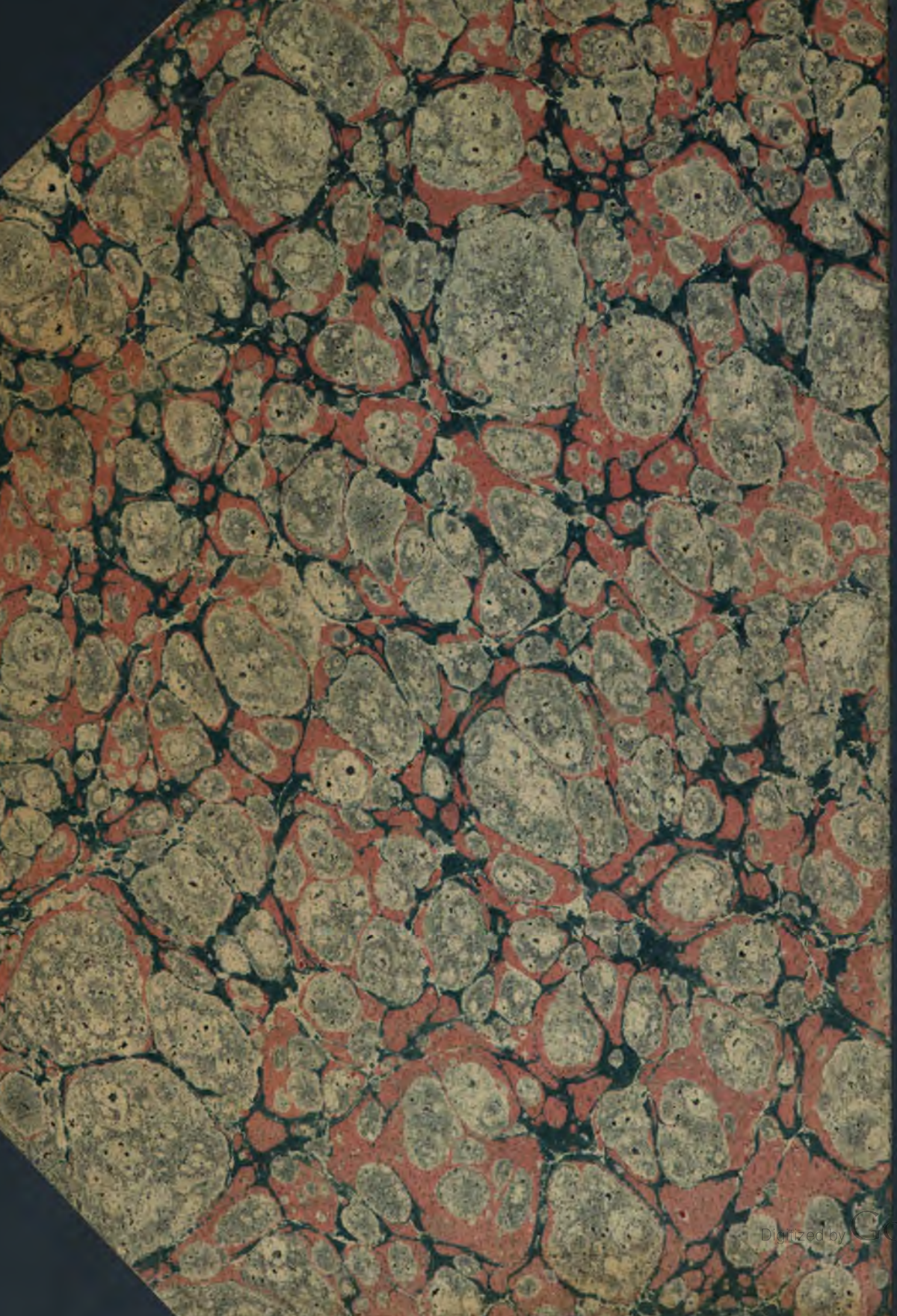
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